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Egypt, Israel, U.S. To Form Anti-Terrorism Committees

NC2610173393 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 19 Oct 93 pp 1, 9

[Report by 'Abd-al-Sattar Abu-Husayn]

[Text] AL-SHA'B has learned that Egypt, Israel, and the United States have agreed to form joint committees specializing in what they called combating terrorism in the region.

Sources told AL-SHA'B that the United States sent a security and political delegation to Egypt last month for periodic talks (every three months) on relations between the two countries. The head of the delegation asked that the topics of discussion be extended to include combating terrorism and extremist fundamentalism, and that a subcommittee be formed for this purpose.

According to some information, the government asked the Americans to provide lists of Egyptians who traveled to Afghanistan from third countries with American assistance. For their part, the Americans asked for detailed information about the various extremist organizations and the relations among them.

It was also agreed with the Zionist enemy to form a joint committee to watch Egyptian and Palestinian fundamentalist groups and their relations, and to prevent border infiltration in preparation for the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement, which is expected to provoke unrest in Gaza.

It should be noted that after the formation of these committees, the United States and Israel received a senior Egyptian security official for the same objective.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Gaza-Jericho Committee Opens Session in Taba

Palestinians Welcome Prisoner Release

NC2610121693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0944 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Taba, 26 Oct (MENA)—A number of Palestinian members of the Gaza-Jericho Committee, which will resume its meetings later today in Taba, has welcomed Israel's release of 700 Palestinian detainees yesterday.

In statements to MENA, they described the decision as a preliminary step toward the release of all Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails, estimated to number 13,000.

Khalil Tufakji, Palestinian delegation member and a Gaza resident, has stressed the importance of releasing Palestinian prisoners to build confidence between the Palestinians and Israelis. He added that the release of the first group of Palestinian detainees yesterday is a positive step that must be followed by others toward the release of the remaining strugglers.

Salih Ra'fat, Palestine National Council member and member of the Palestinian delegation to the Gaza-Jericho Committee, has stated that since the negotiations began the Palestinian side has been demanding the release of all Palestinians jailed in Israeli prisons. He criticized Israel's stand on the detainees issue, noting that the Israeli delegation is procrastinating about the release of prisoners. He added: We believe that this is a negative attitude that is affecting the Taba talks.

Jamil al-Tarifi, mayor of al-Birah and member of the Palestinian delegation, has described the Palestinian detainees as strugglers who carried out heroic acts for the sake of the Palestinian cause. He called on the Israeli authorities to release them as soon as possible. He added: We demand the release of all Palestinian prisoners of all categories, whether from the PLO, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], or other organizations. He noted that the issue of detainees is extremely delicate, adding that the PLO has signed a peace agreement with Israel, which means that this issue must be resolved and that all Palestinian prisoners must be released as soon as possible.

During their second round of Gaza-Jericho talks last week, the Palestinian and Israeli sides agreed on the release of the first group of detainees. The group includes those younger than 18 years, older than 50, and women. The two sides also agreed to divide the detainees into categories and that they would be released in stages until all prisoners are freed.

Detainees Issue Tops Agenda

NC2610115693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1109 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Taba, 26 Oct (MENA)—The Gaza-Jericho Committee resumed its meetings at the Hilton Taba Hotel at noon today. The Committee will discuss the executive measures for the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Gaza and Jericho, in accordance with the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles signed between the two sides in Washington on 13 September.

The Palestinian delegation to the Committee is being led by Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, while the Israeli delegation is being led by General Amnon Shahaq, Israel's deputy chief of staff. Upon their arrival at the Hilton Taba Hotel earlier today, the heads of the Palestinian and Israeli delegations held a private meeting to prepare for today's round of talks, the third, which will last for three days.

Sources close to the Palestinian delegation have stated that the release of the Palestinian detainees now being held in Israeli jails will top the agenda during the Committee meetings, in light of Israel's release yesterday of the first group of detainees.

The Detainees Affairs' Committee, which is part of the Gaza-Jericho Committee, is scheduled to meet today to discuss the plan for the release of the remaining prisoners, according to the agreement reached between the

two sides in the last round. The other subcommittee will also meet to discuss measures for the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Gaza and Jericho, to be replaced by the Palestinian authority.

Four New Committees To Be Formed

NC2610194993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1831 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Taba, 26 Oct (MENA)—The Gaza-Jericho Committee resumed its meeting at the Taba Hotel this evening to continue discussion of the topics pertaining to implementing the Palestinian-Israeli peace agreement.

Khalid al-Qidrah, a resident of Khan Yunus and a member of the Palestinian delegation, stated that it was decided at today's meetings to set up four committees, apart from the committee in charge of detainees, two of which will discuss security issues and the Israeli military withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho. The other two committees will discuss economic issues and the cession of authority by Israel to the Palestinian side. Al-Qidrah added that the security committee in charge of discussing the Israeli withdrawal held a meeting today and reviewed the security provisions stipulated in the agreement. The discussion was handled by the chairmen of the delegations, who were later joined by the members of the two sides.

Al-Qidrah demanded the immediate release of all Palestinians detained in Israeli jails, regardless of their varying affiliations. There is no difference between PLO, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], or other fedayeen movements' detainees, he said.

Khalid al-Qidrah added that since Israel has recognized the PLO as a legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, the detained fighters of both sides must be treated as prisoners of war who should be released as soon as mutual recognition is effected and the state of war is terminated. He pointed out that this will demonstrate the advantages of peace, not only for the two sides, but for the entire region as well.

Al-Qidrah reacted to Rabin's statements on going back on plans to release Hamas detainees because they assassinated two Israeli soldiers in Gaza the day before yesterday. He remarked that the Palestinians who have not yet been released have nothing to do with incidents taking place outside the prisons. He added that with these statements Rabin is punishing the Palestinian detainees for crimes they did not commit. He noted that such statements are unacceptable justifications for Israel's delay in releasing prisoners.

The Palestinian official reacted to the criticism involving the Palestinian delegation in Taba, that they lack negotiating experience. He said this criticism is groundless, because negotiations are still at their early stages and they have not touched on details yet. He affirmed that the Palestinians maintain their fixed, non-negotiable positions, particularly those pertaining to the detainees and the full Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho in implementation of the agreement the two sides signed in Washington last month.

He noted that there are no Israeli prisoners in the Palestinians' hands, adding that the POW's are all Palestinians and Arabs who stood by them during the various stages of struggle.

The detainees committee is scheduled to hold a meeting later today to discuss steps to release the Palestinian detainees in the next stage.

Palestinians Seek UN Assistance

NC2610200693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1842 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Taba, 26 Oct (MENA)—MENA has learned that during the closed meetings with the Israeli side today, the Palestinian delegation in the Gaza-Jericho Committee stressed the need for the participation of UN forces or multinational forces to assist the Palestinian forces in the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

The agency also learned that the Palestinian delegation demanded that these forces be deployed on the crossings and bridges in the liberated areas to supervise the crossing operations between these areas and Egypt and Jordan.

The Israeli side is currently studying the demands and is contacting officials in Israel on the possibility of implementing these demands.

Progress on Detainees Issue Noted

NC2610210593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2024 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Taba, 26 Oct (MENA)—Ziyad Abu-Ziyad, head of the Palestinian side of the detainees subcommittee of the Gaza-Jericho Committee, said that the two sides will discuss the release of a second group of Palestinians detained in Israeli prisons tomorrow.

Speaking to reporters after the Detainees Committee met in Taba this evening, Abu-Ziyad said that the Committee made progress in discussions about the release of the Palestinian detainees. He affirmed that the Palestinian side does not to discriminate between PLO, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], or other organizations' detainees.

Abu-Ziyad expressed his and the Palestinian delegation's belief that all the Palestinian detainees will be released by the end of the negotiations. He asserted that there can be no peace between the Palestinians and Israelis as long as there are Palestinians in prison.

The head of the Palestinian side praised the positive climate that has prevailed during the negotiations with the Israeli side.

Talks Focus on Israeli Withdrawal 27 Oct

NC2710091493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0833 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Taba, 27 Oct (MENA)—The Gaza-Jericho Committee resumed its meeting at the Hilton Hotel in Taba this morning to discuss the executive steps for the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Gaza and Jericho in accordance with the Declaration of Principles signed in Washington on 13 September.

The Palestinian side is headed by Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, while the Israeli side is headed by Deputy Chief of Staff General Amnon Shahaq.

MENA has learned that the Palestinian and Israeli sides will agree today on the release of a second group of Palestinian detainees as part of the confidence-building measures between the two sides.

Israel yesterday released more than 600 Palestinian detainees.

Inter-Arab Affairs

'Sources': Egypt Seeking To Reconcile Arab States

TA2610170193 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 24 Oct 93 p 1

[Text] AL-NAHAR has learned from reliable sources that President Husni Mubarak is endeavoring to achieve a reconciliation between Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and the PLO. This is a prelude to a reconciliation of the Gulf states with the Jordanians and the Palestinians that will open the door to a comprehensive inter-Arab reconciliation.

The sources said that this move falls within the framework of an Egyptian effort to establish a unified and strong Arab position in support of the Middle East peace process—a process that cannot be bolstered unless normal relations between the Gulf states, Jordan, and the Palestinians are restored.

The sources pointed out that the aim of Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa's recent visit to Amman was to prepare for an expected summit between King Husayn and President Mubarak, who is currently paying a visit to the United States.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat: 'Danger' in Arab-Israeli Normalization

JN2610130693 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1210 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat has warned of the danger that the immediate normalization of relations between the Arab countries and Israel would have on the Palestinians. He called on the Arabs to await the complete Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories.

The warning by 'Arafat, whose organization has signed an agreement with Israel on Palestinian self-rule, came in an interview with the Qatari paper AL-RAYAH published today. In the interview, the Palestinian leader said that at the Fes summit conference in 1982 the Arabs adopted the peace option and recognized that countries have a right to live in peace, that is, Israel's right to exist. He added: However, complete normalization will take place only after complete withdrawal and in the final stage when the Arabs sign a just and comprehensive peace.

'Arafat added: Normalization before this means leaving the Palestinians alone, because what was agreed is only the beginning of an interim period.

In reply to a question on when he will leave for Gaza and Jericho, 'Arafat was content to say that this will be sooner than people think.

'Arafat called on the Hamas Movement, which announced that it would not resort to violence to solve intra-Palestinian differences, to translate this stand on the ground so that the Palestinians would confirm to the world that they are a civilized people who deal with their differences in a civilized way.

Hamas Official on Escalation of Military Action

JN2710115693 Amman AL-ASH'AQ in Arabic 27 Oct 93 pp 1, 15

[By 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Khatib]

[Text] Ibrahim Ghawshah, official spokesman for the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, has said that the escalation of the movement's military operations after the Palestinian-Israeli agreement represents the core of its strategy within a commitment to escalate armed action ever since the start of the negotiations in Madrid and despite Israel's successive blows against the movement. This was Ghawshah's reply to a question by AL-ASH'AQ about the objective of the movement's military escalation at this stage.

He said: Recent Hamas operations have affected the chances of Palestinian detainees of the Hamas Movement and the Islamic Jihad Movement being released from Israeli prisons. He added, however, that Hamas is adhering to the main objective before the secondary one. He said that in this context, the movement's priority is to continue armed action against the Zionist entity, and that this should come before releasing the detainees, returning the deportees, or easing the economic burden from which the Palestinian people are suffering.

Ghawshah reaffirmed that this is the official view and stand of Hamas inside and outside the occupied territories and that his own view is not different from that of Shaykh Ahmad Yasin and 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi inside the occupied land.

Ghawshah cast doubt on the intentions behind Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's request to Israeli Prime

Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to release Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, saying that they both know that releasing Shaykh Ahmad Yasin will create concern for a Palestinian leadership that has influence in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Ghawshah said that this is not in the interest of 'Arafat or Rabin. He continued: "Arafat's request to release Shaykh Yasin—which we know will not happen—is within the framework of media gains. 'Arafat will not lose anything by making such a request, through which he tries to appear to be concerned about the symbol of Hamas so as to deceive the Palestinian people and other Islamic circles.

Ghawshah said that Hamas has information and initial reports confirming that the deportation of more than 400 Islamic figures from Hamas and the Islamic Jihad last year was carried out in collaboration with Palestinian security departments and the Israeli ("Shabak"), saying that the Palestinian president knew about this. Ghawshah added that his movement, which acquired this information, does not have concrete evidence to prove this collaboration but continues to receive information about this, and that it will be exposed in the future. He said that such collaboration aims in the first place at emptying the Palestinian arena of these figures in order to peddle the Gaza-Jericho First agreement that was cooked on a slow burner in Oslo.

Hamas Spokesman Explains Political Strategy

JN2610120093 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 25-31 Oct 93 p 5

[By Faysal al-Shubul]

[Excerpt] Amman—Engineer Ibrahim Ghawshah, official spokesman for Hamas [the Islamic Resistance Movement], has said that the movement will not approve the Palestinian-Israeli agreement and will not abandon any of its principles even if all its prisoners in the occupation authorities' jails, including Hamas leader Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, are released.

Ghawshah told AL-WASAT that Hamas has begun to utilize the astonishment that hit average Palestinians as a result of the recent political developments and the "U.S. flood" accompanying the Gaza-Jericho agreement. He noted that Hamas' new tactic is based on dialogue with people and raising questions.

He said: "What will make our mission easier is that there are many gaps in the agreement itself, which, if utilized, will be enough to topple it." He added: "We and the Tunis group are now competing over the minds and hearts of average Palestinians. Hamas is working to unite the opposition. It has done so successfully, taking advantage of the narrow margin made available by some Arab regimes." [passage omitted]

Islamic Jihad Leader Seeks Alternative to PLO

NC2710090993 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Hizballah Secretary General al-Sayyid Hasan Nasrallah last night received a delegation from the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine led by the movement's Secretary General, Dr. Fathi al-Shiqaqi.

Dr. al-Shiqaqi stressed the need to work to find an alternative to the PLO through an alliance among national and Islamic groups.

PLO Opposition Hopes for Peace Program With Israel

BR2510154293 Paris LIBERATION in French 24 Oct p 15

[Interview by with Hani al-Hasan, leader of the PLO members opposed to the autonomy agreement by Ch.B.; place and date not given: "A Front of Hostile Forces Has Been Formed—Hani-al-Hasan Explains That the Opposition Hopes to Find a Program for Peace With Israel"; first paragraph is LIBERATION introduction]

[Text] Hani al-Hasan, founder of the Fatah with Yasir 'Arafat, has become leader of the members of his movement who are opposed to the Israeli-Palestinian agreement. A historic figure in the Palestinian movement, he calls upon opponents of the agreement to unite.

[LIBERATION] You weren't allowed to attend the recent meeting of the PLO Central Committee.

[Al-Hasan] The Fatah Central Committee made my attendance subject to the condition that I either vote for the Israeli-Palestinian agreement or abstain. I refused. They then refused to give me an entry badge and replaced me with another member. They also raided my home, disarmed my bodyguards and searched my papers. Since the beginning of this affair, I have received messages of support from all quarters. A large majority of the Palestinian representatives share my opinions. But somebody is using the power of money and intimidation to prevent us from openly discussing our objections.

[LIBERATION] You have long been in favor of a political solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. So why do you now condemn this agreement ?

[Al-Hasan] The future will show who is right. The agreement which the executive committee (of the PLO) has signed with the Israelis includes many contradictions which will be revealed for all to see within three months. No doubt economic aid will relieve some of the suffering of the Palestinian people, but the principal question remains whether or not the Israelis are going to withdraw from all the occupied territories. If they allow the population to survive, but maintain 30

of the land, it won't work.

[LIBERATION] Do you think that the opposition, with all its differences, will be able to unite ?

[Al-Hasan] This was the reason for my visit to Damascus, where I met Georges Habash, Nayif Hawatimah, and the Hamas representatives. We first agreed on what should not be done: Some of them were tempted to set up a new PLO. We agreed that this would be a mistake. Because, despite the decisions made, the PLO continues to enjoy international recognition. A front uniting all the forces opposed to the agreement was therefore formed. I hope that the opposition will quickly be able to agree on a political program which lays down how peace with Israel can be achieved. Nobody is opposed to the principle of exchanging land for peace. Except the Islamists.

[LIBERATION] Which is a significant exception.

[Al-Hasan] They are entitled to defend their opinions. I believe we can work with them. They have already agreed not to resort to violence against other Palestinians and not to set up a new PLO. These are important steps.

[LIBERATION] You are accused of having met with Ahmad Jabril (a pro-Syrian Palestinian dissident) in Damas.

[Al-Hasan] It is not true. Some members of his organization came to see me. But I refused to enter into dealings with a man who has threatened to kill Yasir 'Arafat.

[LIBERATION] Are you going to leave the Fatah ?

[Al-Hasan] No. I am going to fight to see that democracy is respected, and the rules applied. We are not sheep. I hope to convince the majority of the members of the Central Committee to attend the "national congress" (organized by the opposition). If not, I will attend as an individual.

Fatah's Hani al-Hasan Explains Dissident Line

PM2510142593 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 22 Oct 93 pp26-27

[Interview with Fatah Central Committee member Hani al-Hasan by Nabil al-Baradi'i in Tunis; date not given]

[Excerpts] At the beginning of the interview AL-HAWADITH asked about the incident of the storming of his home.

[Al-Hasan] That was a farce. My home was stormed by members of the special security force attached to the Executive Committee chairman ['Arafat]. They confiscated the arms found in the house and two cars assigned to me and my personal guards.

All that was in retaliation for my previous visit to Damascus and my meeting with the Palestinian opposition factions.

However, what happened then was that other Fatah members in Tunis who were opposed to the agreement signed by the Executive Committee chairman and the Israeli prime minister regarding what is known as "the Gaza-Jericho plan" thought that their homes might be stormed and, therefore, alerted their personal guards. Furthermore, all the [Fatah] Central Committee members, including the supporters and opponents of my political views, rejected that uncivilized method that was alien to Fatah, and they knew that one day they would themselves be the victims.

Let me point out here that one of the Executive Committee chairman's main aides, whose name is Fathi Salbad, summoned all my personal guards and, under threat and in the presence of some members of the Executive Committee chairman's special guard, forced them to sign a piece of paper expressing support for the Executive Committee chairman and the agreement he signed with the Israeli prime minister. The threats included suspension of financial allocations for my personal guards and their expulsion from Tunisia.

Some of my guards actually contacted me and informed of of what happened. So I permitted them to sign that paper. [passage omitted]

[Al-Baradi'i] Have you met with Yasir 'Arafat since your home was stormed?

[Al-Hasan] Not at all.

[Al-Baradi'i] Do you intend to meet with him?

[Al-Hasan] If the Central Committee is invited to hold another meeting, I would attend but I do not believe that the storming of my house was a simple matter [to forget].

[Al-Baradi'i] In Damascus you met with the leaders of the Palestinian factions opposed to 'Arafat and the Gaza-Jericho agreement. Will you coordinate your work with them?

[Al-Hasan] Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] Secretary General Dr. George Habash had invited me to meet with him and some other Palestinian factions leaders in Damascus for consultation on what should be done about this current phase in which we are surprised everyday with new agreements containing unjustified concessions.

I accepted that noble invitation because I believed that national decisions required national consensus. In fact, we can discern to what extend a decision is a national one by the degree of national support for it.

I held lengthy talks with the leaders of the main factions such as the PFLP, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], Hamas, and Islamic Jihad, and we agreed that it would be wrong to form an alternative organization to the PLO, that the PLO must remain, and that anyone who contemplates dissolving it must leave it.

We also agreed that under no circumstances should there be any Palestinian infighting because that would only benefit the enemy. [passage omitted]

I tried to persuade the leaders of the opposition factions to attend the Central Council meetings and to form a front within the Council together with others with similar views, whether they are Fatah members or independent members, but I did not succeed. [passage omitted]

[Al-Baradi'i] Brother Hani, let us be frank. Should you and all your colleagues in the Palestinian leadership not bear the responsibility for allowing Yasir 'Arafat to monopolize power and make unilateral decisions within the PLO and Fatah?

[Al-Hasan] It is a collective responsibility, there is no doubt about that, but let me add that our being in the diaspora played a major part in creating the circumstances for unilateral decisions, particularly as Jawid al-Ghusayn, the official in charge of the Palestinian National Fund, only takes orders from the Executive Committee chairman and does not tell the Committee members about the financial situation. We will raise this issue at the next meeting of the Palestine National Council [PNC].

[Al-Baradi'i] Brother Hani, allow me once again to be more frank. I ask you: Isthere any truth in the claims that Yasir 'Arafat used to buy the silence of PLO Executive Committee members and Fatah Central Committee members with money?

[Al-Hasan] It is not like that. The point is that financial decisions are not made collectively and, therefore, many feel that opposition to the Executive Committee chairman would expose them to financial pressure, be it at the level of allocations for their departments or for them personally.

[Al-Baradi'i] You opposed the Gaza-Jericho agreement. What is your alternative?

[Al-Hasan] The problem facing the Palestinian leadership is that a certain group has formed a bloc and decided to reach agreement with the Israelis at any price. Members of that group concluded agreements and then brought the Palestinian leadership and the Palestinian people face to face with a new fait accompli, and then they asked: What is the alternative?

The alternative, in my view, is always the sound policy. For example, as far as the negotiations are concerned, we are not against the principle of a political settlement but there is such a thing as a defeatist settlement and a balanced settlement. Why should a defeatist settlement be imposed on the Palestinian people under the pretext "nothing better was possible?" [passage omitted]

What is noticeable about the Gaza-Jericho agreement is that it postpones all the important issues to the final stage of the negotiations. I cite, as an example and not as a list, the issues of Jerusalem, the settlements, the borders, security, and the refugees.

I emphatically say that the most dangerous aspect of that postponement is that the issue of territory remained open to negotiation, which means the triumph of the U.S.-Israeli idea that the Palestinian territories are disputed territories. [passage omitted]

Before saying that we want a state, it is important to make it clear to the Israelis that our state would be set up on every inch of West Bank and Gaza Strip territory.

If Israel withdrew from 80 percent of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip so that a Palestinian state could be established on that area of territory, that would mean forfeiting what is most sacrosanct, namely territory. I personally am certain that Yitzhaq Rabin and Shim'on Peres are not at all contemplating total withdrawal from the West Bank and that they want an Israeli-Palestinian confederation with the aim of achieving two objectives. The first is to keep the Israeli forces on Palestinian territory in the name of the confederation, and the second is to merge the Palestinian and Israeli economies to channel Israeli products to Arab and Islamic markets through the Palestinian market. [passage omitted]

Former Fatah Chief 'Escaped' Assassination Bid

NC2610160393 Paris AFP in English 1459 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Sidon, Lebanon, Oct 26 (AFP)—A former PLO military chief in Lebanon, sacked because of his opposition to the autonomy deal with Israel, said Tuesday [26 October] he had escaped an assassination bid.

Munir al-Maqdah said an officer of Fatah, the PLO's main faction, had been arrested on charges of ordering the attack. The officer was not named and there was no independent confirmation of the report.

Palestine Liberation Organisation leader Yasir 'Arafat sacked al-Maqdah from his post of Fatah military chief earlier this month over his opposition to the September 13 accord on Palestinian autonomy.

According to al-Maqdah, two masked men armed with machine-guns and revolvers ambushed him late Monday in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah Camp on the outskirts of the south Lebanon port city of Sidon.

Forces loyal to al-Maqdah arrested one of the assailants but the other fled, he told AFP.

Al-Maqdah has called for 'Arafat's ouster and ordered the arrest of dozens of his supporters. Forces loyal to al-Maqdah control 'Ayn al-Hulwah, the largest Palestinian camp in Lebanon with 80,000 refugees.

Suspected 'Collaborator' Stabbed to Death

TA2510201793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] Mahmud Ya'qub Salah, aged about 59, a resident of al-Ghadir, was stabbed to death tonight after being suspected of collaborating with Israel. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that unidentified men attacked Salah near his home seriously wounding him. Salah was taken to hospital in Bethlehem where he died of his wounds. Security forces are investigating.

Fatah Urges End to Collaborator Executions

TA2410182993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Text] 'Arafat's Fatah faction has called for an end to what it called the execution and torture of collaborators. A leaflet circulated in the Gaza Strip refers specifically to shooting suspects' legs during interrogation.

Since the beginning of the intifadah, more than 900 alleged Palestinian collaborators have been killed in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Fatah, FIDA To Set Up Security Forces in Gaza

TA2610095293 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 26 Oct 93 p 2

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Excerpt] Two Palestinian organizations have decided to set up security forces in the Gaza Strip: the Fatah organization and the FIDA [Palestinian Democratic Federation] party. FIDA announced that it is establishing an "independence guard" and Fatah is establishing a "national guard." Palestinian sources told our correspondent that there were disputes inside Fatah over whether to establish the military organization unilaterally or to first raise the issue at the Taba talks.

Delegation member Hasan 'Asfur declared that the establishment of the national guard will be discussed at the Taba talks. The plan is to organize a force of 3,000 people that will operate secretly in order to safeguard Palestinian officials. [passage omitted]

'Ashrawi Discusses U.S. Visit, Peace Process

NC2710092693 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0814 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Telephone interview with Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, in Washington, by Ashraf 'Abd-al-'Aziz in Cairo; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] ['Abd-al-'Aziz] You are currently visiting Washington. Would you tell us about the nature of this visit?

['Ashrawi] I am paying this visit basically to fulfill some promises, deliver lectures, attend seminars, speak on behalf of president Yasir 'Arafat before the Arab-American Society, and hold talks at the U.S. State Department and the United Nations.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Do you have certain proposals or ideas to submit to the U.S. Administration officials?

['Ashrawi] There are several basic issues relating to Palestinian-U.S. ties, recognition of the PLO, the nature of the Palestinian representation in the United States, economic issues and following up on the resolutions of the Washington economic conference, and on pursuing the negotiation process and the U.S. role in it.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Since the meetings of the four committees, can we say that the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles has begun to move toward implementation?

['Ashrawi] In fact, only two committees have been formed to start the negotiations. The committee on negotiations in Washington has not started its work and is awaiting the convening of the bilateral negotiations in line with the Madrid framework. There is also the economic committee, which will begin its work after the economic meeting in Paris next month. Regarding the Gaza-Jericho Committee and the Liaison Committee, they have begun work. There are certain topics on their agenda, such as the issue of the detainees, Israeli measures in the occupied territories, withdrawal, redeployment of the Israeli forces in the West Bank and Gaza, and withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho. As for the Liaison Committee, there are issues related to political decisions.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Has a date been set for the next round of the Arab-Israeli peace talks?

['Ashrawi] As yet, there is no specific date or agreement. As part of the unified Arab stand, we insist that the date for resuming talks in Washington must be set in coordination and agreement with the Arab parties. The Palestinian position and situation differ somewhat from those of the other delegations, because there is an initial agreement—the Declaration of Principles—which needs translation into a practical mechanism with the steps and implementation of the details outlined in the agreement.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Regarding attempts to assassinate certain Palestinian leaders, will this affect the Palestinian position, which is determined to continue with the peace process?

['Ashrawi] The Palestinian position is principled and the Palestinian people and the PLO are truly committed to their position. In fact, there have been tragic and very regrettable incidents, which are a serious harbinger. We want to stop these incidents quickly and decisively, because they are negative and have a negative effect on all Palestinian people. They are foreign to Palestinian ethics, democratic dealing, and respect for diverse views and plurality. We believe that the use of assassinations has been totally rejected. We do not want it to be a course of action. There must be interrogation and practical steps to stop these really regrettable incidents.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] President Mubarak and U.S. President Bill Clinton are currently holding summit talks in Washington. What do you expect from these talks?

['Ashrawi] President Mubarak is playing an important role in advancing the peace process and negotiations. He is a moving force and basic factor. Egypt, the most powerful Arab country, is playing this role. We expect that these efforts will help in unifying Arab ranks, setting a specific date for the next bilateral negotiations, and

motivating the United States to give practical help for progress on the Syrian-Israeli and Lebanese-Israeli tracks, because we believe it is essential to see real progress on these tracks. Progress on these two tracks will help enhance progress on the other tracks. We also expect Mubarak to motivate the United States to play an effective and constructive role in this process.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Will you meet with the Egyptian delegation led by President Mubarak which is now in Washington?

['Ashrawi] We have no such arrangements yet. My visit is unofficial. It is a to make preparations and sound out views.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Dr. 'Ashrawi, thank you.

Al-Husayni on Gaza-Jericho, Future Prospects

JN2510101493 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1907 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Interview with "Palestinian leader" Faysal al-Husayni by Nabil Sabbagh and Ghassan 'Abd-al-Khaliq; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Reporter] In this open meeting with Radio Monte Carlo, the first thing that comes to mind in view of the position you enjoy as head of the negotiating Palestinian delegation and the position you have also won since the negotiations started in Madrid, is that there has been much talk, particularly following the conclusion of the Gaza-Jericho agreement that what the Washington negotiations, or what was proposed during the Washington negotiations, was more than what was proposed in the Gaza-Jericho agreement. Since you enjoy a position of responsibility in the Washington negotiations, what do you have to say to this?

[Al-Husayni] First of all, I would like to say that during the Washington negotiations, the proposals that used to be put to us were proposals to deal with a minority that lives in Israel. Thus, although in appearance, the measures that were proposed to us there were broader, they were proposals on the basis that we were a minority. That's why we rejected them, because these proposals dissociated us from the Palestinians outside the occupied homeland. What was achieved in Oslo is that the Oslo agreement took place between the PLO and Israel. It took place with the PLO as the Palestinian people's representative. Therefore, this agreement covers the entire Palestinian people. An agreement with the entire people means we are proceeding toward a state. But an agreement with a minority means we are proceeding toward self-rule. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Concerning the current talk about building the infrastructure and the presence on the ground, it seems that this topic is being discussed on more than one level and some have started adopting a course different from the one they had in the past, particularly with respect to intra-Palestinian differences and fighting and the impact this may have on the current situation. News reports about the assassination of al-Saftawi yesterday spoke about differences within the Fatah Movement itself. There is the question of sovereignty, and Palestinian stands in the West Bank which still view that sovereignty has not been attained, and that there is a Jordanian sovereignty in one way or the other. Most of the Palestinian factions also adopt opposing and even threatening stands. The new elements which emerged following the agreement have produced new issues. How could these issues be solved?

[Al-Husayni] First of all, what I would like to say concerning the martyrdom of brother As'ad al-Saftawi is that the one who carried out this action is either a paid agent, a person led astray, or a stupid person.

The entire world expected that intra-Palestinian dispute and fighting would take place. The Palestinian people demonstrated their maturity and the Palestinian forces succeeded in passing through this difficult stage without any intra-Palestinian fighting. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] What about the differences within the Fatah Movement in Gaza?

[Al-Husayni] Even if there are differences, these cannot reach the point of resorting to weapons and killings. It is premature to point an accusing finger at this or that person. Investigations should take place. If this proves to be true, then Fatah should severely punish those responsible. If it proves to be an operation from outside, then it should be investigated to end such a course.

[Reporter] What about the news reports that there are attempts to silence the opposition in Tunis?

[Al-Husayni] I do not know where such talk has orginated, the talk about the attempt to silence the opposition in Tunis. The opponents are there in Tunis and they are free to move from Tunis to other places. Some of them decided not to come to the PLO Central Council meeting. But, I believe that the borders and airports are open to those who wish to leave for Tunis. I saw many supporters and opponents in Tunis. I certainly did not notice that the PLO has imposed a siege on those who oppose it. The opposite is true. Some of the opponents do not not want to come to Tunis. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Will the question of a state and sovereignty be discussed by the Palestinian-Jordanian committees?

[Al-Husayni] In view of the nature of the future Jordanian-Palestinian relationship, this topic will, of course, be discussed. Some of the matters which concern us, the Jordanians, and the Israelis should first be preceded by a Palestinian-Jordanian agreement on them. The Jordanians should not go and negotiate alone with the Israelis, after which we go and negotiate with the Israelis. There are issues dealing with the crossing points, and the borders in which Jordan should be a party either through our adopting the same viewpoint and then addressing Israel with it, or by holding a three-way negotiations process.

[Reporter] Therefore, there are Palestinian-Jordanian negotiations at present? Does this explain the talk these days about Palestinian-Jordanian differences?

[Al-Husayni] A decision has been made to form six, and even seven Palestinian-Jordanian commitees to prepare for a confederation which we ultimately seek to achieve.

[Reporters] They have been suspended?

[Al-Husayni] Their work has not been suspended. But, some circumstances have occurred, including Jordan's preparations for the legislative elections. What concerns us at this stage is that certain developments take place that would raise questions in the streets such as the conclusion of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement which was followed by the Israeli-Jordanian signing of the working agenda. All these developments have placed the Jordanians and the Palestinians in a position of expectation and they are awaiting the reactivation of these committees. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Regarding the agreement, do you not think that Israel, which failed to achieve its dream of the [Jordan] River to the [Mediterranean] Sea by force, militarily, and geographically, has managed through the agreement to establish a greater Israel economically, since the agreement would give it access to the Arab region, capital, oil, etc?

[Al-Husayni] You can view this matter from another perspective, because the Arabs, who failed to penetrate Israel militarily, could penetrate it economically. The Palestinian who could not reach a certain area in Palestine on a tank can now reach that area through work and the economy. The Palestinians and Arabs have shown a great desire to invest in the territories which will be liberated from Israel. This will enable us to say that the agreement is not a bridge but a point of contact in both directions. I believe that if things go in the direction of regional cooperation, then the Israel we know—the spartan, expansionist, racist Israel—cannot be part of this region while having this character. It must change. If it changes, then you will find not only a different Israel but another shape of Palestine which is more similar to what we had planned rather than what the Israelis had planned. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Allow me to go back to the question of assassinations. There have been official Israeli calls for cooperation with the Palestinians to stop the assassinations. Has there been any response on your part?

[Al-Husayni] I do not understand what you mean by calls. Is it a call on the Palestinians to stop the assassinations?

[Reporter] To cooperate with Israel.

[Al-Husayni] To cooperate with Israel. Let me say that this is an internal Palestinian issue, and we can handle it without Israel's intervention. All we want from Israel is not to be a party to this process. If Israel is not a party to this process, then this is enough. We can take care of the rest. The only thing we want from the Israelis is that if they have any relations with the parties that used to carry out such operations in the past and that killed many more than what the Palestinians have killed, then we want the Israelis to stop these relations.

[Reporter] Before the Gaza-Jericho accord, you personally contributed toward reviving Gulf support to the PLO. You made several contacts personally in this regard. Now after the agreement, why do we not see any Gulf activity in this context, except for the fact that a senior Palestinian delegation traveled to the Gulf recently? There is some lack of activity and support, except also what was mentioned recently that President Mubarak's visit to Jeddah was also in this context. What about foreign aid to the Palestinians after the agreement?

[Al-Husayni] Let me say that when we used to ask the Gulf states for support, they used to wonder why. But now the question is how. I believe this shows some progress.

[Reporter] Practically, what has happened?

[Al-Husayni] They want to know how this support will be given, what agency will receive the aid, and how will this aid be developed and where will it be spent on the ground, in what region, in what field. So we moved from the stage of convincing them that they should pay to the stage of how they are going to pay.

[Reporter] How are negotiations being carried out now in this respect?

[Al-Husayni] A Palestinian delegation has recently made a visit. There are direct contacts by various means with the brothers in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf, but outside Saudi or Gulf territory. I have no doubt that there will be cooperation and support once again to help the Palestinians achieve their independence. This, however, might take some time and might be gradual. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Concerning the establishment of the state which will start to exercise its authority following the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho, there has been talk about recruitment for a Palestinian police force, and a large number of Palestinian young men have joined it. The question that has been raised more than once concerns the duties of this police force. There is great fear that the Palestinian police force will exercise a repressive policy and the Israeli method will be replaced by a method from within the Palestinian body, particularly that the Palestinian police force will be a large one. Many Palestinians in the occupied territories have expressed such apprehension, and we communicate it to you.

[Al-Husayni] First, let us speak about the size of the police force. It will be a large police force. It might exceed 20,000 members. We want it to reach 40,000. This Palestinian police force will not a selected one. The repressive police is the one whose members are selected. As for the police force whose members are recruited

from the people, it represents all sectors of the people and for this reason cannot be a repressive force. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] With respect to the national authority that will be set up in Gaza and Jericho, has a specific post been proposed to you?

[Al-Husayni] At this stage, I still believe we have a battle to wage, the battle for Jerusalem. I am honored to be in charge of the Jerusalem Committee. If I can allot it the time it deserves and succeed in carrying out what is required from me with respect to Jerusalem, I would be carrying out an action that would satisfy my conscience and that of the Palestinian people, too.

[Reporter] Since we are speaking about Jerusalem, the Israeli housing minister yesterday spoke about the establishment of 13,000 new housing units in Jerusalem, given that the the Jerusalem issue will not be raised before the third year of the negotiations and thus, he feels that Israel is free to build these settlements. What do you have to say to this?

[Al-Husayni] As I told you, this is a battle we have to wage. We tell the Israeli housing minister that no one in this world can have complete freedom to do what he wants. They are not the only ones who live in Jerusalem, and are not the only ones who are interested in Jerusalem. Thus, when he wants to do something, he must take into consideration the interests of others. Therefore, if the relationship between us as of now is going to be based on the fact that one party can ignore the interests of the other party in this manner, then we will not be moving toward the establishment of peace but to the establishment of a new base for a new war. [passage omitted]

Israel Said Exhausting Jericho Water Resources

JN2510100293 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 25 Oct 93 p 25

[By 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Excerpts] Two members of the Palestinian delegation to the multilateral talks—the Water Committee—have emphasized the Palestinian side's insistence on its right to control the national water resources.

In an interview with AL-RA'Y in Amman before leaving for Beijing from the occupied territories, they called for setting up a national Palestinian water authority, and emphasized that failure to control water during the transitional stage would be a tragedy that would turn the Palestinians into slaves.

They said that despite the agreement reached in Oslo, the Israelis have recently begun drilling a well in Wadi al-Qilt near Jericho, which is an area covered by the Palestinian-Israeli agreement.

Engineer Ayman al-Sarabi, member of the delegation to the multilateral Water Committee, said: The Israelis are—even as we head to Beijing—exhausting the water resources despite the signing of the Oslo agreement, which includes certain points banning changes on the ground. The Israelis are drilling more wells in Wadi al-Qilt and are equipping wells dug before the agreement. He called for ending such actions that violate the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. [passage omitted]

Engineer 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Tamimi emphasized the importance of presenting a unified Arab position on water that guarantees the water rights of all Arab parties and facilitates the Arab delegations' task of presenting their demands to the international community. [passage omitted]

PLO Denies Role in Postponement of Boycott Meeting

JN2610094393 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 26 Oct 93 p 22

[Text] Amman—Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi, head of the PLO Economic Affairs and Planning Department, has denied any PLO role in the postponement of a meeting on the Arab economic boycott of Israel which was scheduled to be held last week.

He told AL-DUSTUR that the boycott decision was made at an Arab summit within the Arab League framework, and that lifting the boycott should also take place in accordance with an Arab summit resolution. He said that the boycott issue could be reexamined after achieving a just and comprehensive solution to the Palestine question and the Arab-Israeli conflict, after restoring the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, and after Israel's full withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories.

'Arafat Receives Chilean Defense Minister

LD2510194093 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] Brother leader Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] today received Chilean Defense Minister (Jorge Haiki) [name and title as received]. The brother president briefed his guest on the latest developments in the Middle East peace process, and prospects of cooperation in the coming phase in building the bases of the Palestinian state, and [prospects] of bilateral relations.

The Chilean Defense Minister stressed his country's full support for efforts for peace in the Middle East in view of its impact on world peace. He said that he hoped that a just and comprehensive peace will prevail in the whole of the Middle East.

Residents Polled on Palestinian-Israeli Accord

TA2610191093 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 24 Oct 93 pp 1, 7

[Text] The Sanabil Press Services Organization conducted a public opinion poll between 3 and 15 September on many important issues relating to the Gaza-Jericho accord.

The poll covered 794 respondents from both sexes and various social classes as well as persons over 18 years old. It was conducted in different parts of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, in towns, villages, and refugee camps. The number of respondents in the West Bank was 517 and in the Gaza Strip, 277.

The poll's respondents were chosen at random and the identity of the persons filling the questionnaires was not known.

The questions and answers were as follows:

1. Do you believe that the ratification of the accord was legal?

- Yes, 41 percent.
- No, 54 percent.
- No opinion, 5 percent.

2. Do you believe that the Palestinian-Israeli accord will have an adverse effect on the Palestinian people, and do you fear that it will lead to infighting?

- Yes, 48.5 percent.
- No, 45 percent.
- No opinion, 6.5 percent.

3. Some opposition Palestinian figures are now talking about establishing a national Islamic front and forming a new leadership. What would be your position if this were to materialize?

- Support, 42 percent.
- Oppose, 44 percent.
- No opinion, 14 percent.

4. Do you favor a referendum on the accord?

- Yes, 78 percent.
- No, 18.5 percent.
- No opinion, 3.5 percent.

5. Do you believe that the accord will lead to the establishment of a Palestinian state?

- Yes, 40 percent.
- No, 54 percent.
- No opinion, 6 percent.

6. Do you believe that the accord can achieve the principle of return and solve the issue of the refugees since 1948?

- Yes, 26 percent.
- No, 67 percent.
- No opinion, 7 percent.

7. Do you believe that the accord will lead to ending the intifadah?

- Yes, 35.5 percent.
- No, 54 percent.
- No opinion, 10.5 percent.

8. Do you support an end to the intifadah?

- Yes, 23 percent.
- No, 66 percent.
- No opinion, 11 percent.

The poll's margin of error is 4 percent.

Majority Favor Self-Rule Council Elections

TA2410122193 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 24 Oct 93 p 2

[Report by Mikhal Sela']

[Text] A public opinion poll carried out on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip shows that most Palestinians are interested in holding free elections to the Palestinian self-government council. The poll, conducted by the Palestinian Research Center in Nabulus, shows that 74 percent of the interviewees believe elections are the way to decide the composition of the council. The other alternatives given in the poll were that the council be appointed by the PLO leadership or that political groups appoint people according to a party key.

Some 68.2 percent of the interviewees said they would vote if elections are held. Fatah would win the largest number of votes in elections—44.7 percent—according to the poll.

Some 1,259 people—men and women over the age of 18 from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip—participated in the poll. They were selected at random, and the questions were presented face-to-face.

Under the Declaration of Principles reached between Israel and the Palestinians, elections to the self-government council are to be held by 13 July 1994. In general, the Palestinians are interested in holding the elections, but there are voices in the Palestinian leadership, especially in Tunis, that do not rule out the possibility of the PLO Executive Committee appointing a council.

Commentary on Mosad Killing of PLO Official

LD2410144293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1056 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The Palestine Islamic movement destroyed the grounds for the realization of the Zionist regime's plot to create division among the Palestinians by condemning the assassination in Gaza Strip of one of the officials of the Palestine Liberation Organization, PLO.

Informed political circles believe the assassination of someone close to the PLO, in the Gaza Strip to be, logically, an act by the agents of Israel's Mosad, and no one but the Zionist regime benefits from it. The uniting of the Palestinian Islamic and nationalist forces opposed to the PLO-Zionist regime accord for safeguarding the priorities of the struggle against Israel, and the abstention from any internal clash with the supporters or

executors of the Gaza- Jericho self-rule plan, demonstrate that the Palestinian Islamic and nationalist forces enjoy an outstanding awareness and political development. It is unlikely for those who have jointly sworn beforehand to safeguard national priorities to allow themselves to be dragged into the whirlpool of internal conflict, let alone becoming the starters for such a development.

Another reason for the political analysts' tendency to accuse the Israeli security services of assassinating one of the PLO's agents in the Gaza Strip, is that the appearance of any internal conflict among the Palestinians will face the intifadah with the threat of annihilation and replace the hostility against the Zionist regime with a purge within Palestinian factions—which is only to the Zionist regime's benefit. On top of that, the Zionist regime, by fuelling the flames of fighting among Palestinian factions, intends to demonstrate the discord among the people of Palestine and, after taking full advantage of its usurper regime's complete integration in the Middle East region, begun after the accord with the PLO, pull out from its meager undertakings in the Gaza-Jericho self-rule plan.

Naturally, any help given by any Palestinian group to drag the Palestinians' political dispute to military conflict among them is a treason against the Palestinian aspirations and will merely end in the realization of Israel's plot.

Algeria

Kidnappers of 3 French Threaten Further Action

PM2610175593 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 26 Oct 93 pp1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Security Authorities Intensify Campaign To Arrest Kidnappers of French Nationals"]

[Excerpts] Paris, Algiers, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—The Algerian security forces yesterday continued their search for the three French nationals kidnapped the day before yesterday in the capital Algiers. [passage omitted]

In a statement, a copy of which was received by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, the Armed Islamic Group [al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah al-Musallahah] claimed responsibility for the kidnapping of foreigners and said that last Sunday's operation, that is the kidnapping of the three French nationals, was not the first and would not be the last.

The statement added that the Armed Islamic Group was the one which made the decisions and it, and nobody else, had the right to speak for al-Jihad, "especially not those living overseas and beyond the oceans.... There will be no dialogue, no reconciliation, no negotiation, no discussion, no handing over of authority to a neutral government, no transitional government, and no half-solutions."

A French Foreign Ministry spokesman has stated that the French ambassador in Algiers has summoned representatives of the French companies operating there to remind them to observe security instructions. [passage omitted]

FIS Appeals for Release of French Citizens

LD2610121293 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] One of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] leaders abroad, Anouar Adam, launched an appeal yesterday for the release of the three French citizens kidnapped on Sunday. This does not serve the cause, he said, unless it transpires that these people belong to the intelligence service. Ndela Lelage rang Anouar Adam in Chicago. He is a member of the FIS collegial leadership abroad. She asked him to give more details on his position:

[Begin recording] [Adam] The FIS as such has never claimed responsibility for any action. All we want to say, especially to international opinion, and in particular to the French opinion, is that Algeria now, throughout Algerian territory, Algeria is in a state of war now—a war announced by the Algerian people against the junta and all those who support it.

[Lelage] You called for the release of the French citizens, these persons, if they were innocent. But what does this mean? If they are innocent, they will be released, if they are not, they are a target we must aim at?

[Adam] No. All I say is that if they are innocent indeed, I call for their release, quite simply, whoever kidnapped them. But it does not mean that we are or that we are not behind this.

[Lelage] But what does it mean, if they are innocent?

[Adam] It means if they are not used, as we know is the case in all Third World countries, in particular by the French intelligence service, which supports authoritarian regimes.

The situation is very serious in Algeria. The people as a whole are tortured by a junta that wants to cling to power by any means. This is an extremely serious problem that will have repercussions for the whole region. People must understand that and try to find a stable and final solution to the Algerian crisis. Thanks to such actions, the origin of which is not known exactly, international opinion may start to show an interest in what is happening to the Algerian people. Do we not have the right to live freely, in accordance with our ideology and our identity?

[Lelage] Do you reproach France with anything special?

[Adam] Of course. Especially after such statements from their administration, their minister for foreign affairs and so on, who are supporting the junta officially, and especially the hard line of the junta.

[Lelage] For you, is that a good enough reason to attack foreigners, and in particular the French, living in Algeria?

[Adam] This would be assuming that I said that we attack foreigners. I never said that.

[Lelage] For some time, there was contact between the FIS and the French government. Are you still in contact with the French authorities in any way?

[Adam] Our mission, as a parliamentary delegation, is essentially a diplomatic mission. It is to try and prepare future relations between Western countries and the Algerian Islamic state. As for the details of such a mission, we prefer not to talk about that now.

[Lelage] All right. For you, who are those responsible for yesterday's kidnapping?

[Adam] We do not know, that is the problem. If there really were a stable situation in Algeria, if there really were a power in Algeria, there would have been an independent justice, and we would have known. All we can say is that once we have restored order in Algeria, we will then have an independent judiciary system, and then we will know exactly who has been a victim of the junta and who has been a victim of the moudjahidine. It is impossible to tell now.

[Lelage] All right. But in whose interest is it to kidnap French citizens?

[Adam] A priori, if it is really...[changes thought]... because we haven't been given information yet. Honestly, we must wait until we have exact information on these people and who they are. If they are really innocent? Well, that's the way things go in Algeria, as people in the street would say. Tell me who was killed, and I will tell you who killed them. If they are innocent, it may be an action from extremist factions of the junta trying to bring into disrepute the just cause of the Algerian people and of the moudjahidine.

[Lelage] But you said the following: Let us wait and see whether these people are innocent, as if you expected to judge them before knowing whether their life is at risk or not, and as if you really knew where...

[Adam, interrupting] No, [words indistinct] because, given the unstable situation in Algeria, it is impossible to tell exactly. Nobody has claimed responsibility for this action. It is impossible to tell.

[Lelage] Do you think that their lives are at risk?

[Adam] As much as the lives of every Algerian citizen, or of any person living in Algeria.

[Lelage] Mr. Adam, does the FIS leadership abroad really control Islamic elements on the ground?

[Adam] First, our mission abroad is essentially diplomatic and political. The FIS leadership is still in Algeria. The FIS is still the most organized political party in Algeria. [end recording]

Authorities Appeal for Help

LD2610230593 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Excerpt] Concerning the kidnapping of several French people last Sunday [25 October], security authorities today directed an appeal to anyone who could help find the car used in the kidnapping and to anyone who could cast any light on this case.

The security authorities have made it known that the car is a white Toyota truck, owned by a national company. The registration number of the car, which was stolen on the same day as the kidnapping, is 0038639116. Its driver is an employee in the same company and was last seen on Sunday at 6:30. The stolen Toyota was used to transport workers. [passage omitted]

Spain Grants Loan for Plastics Factory, Ferry

LD2310144493 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] Algerian-Spanish relations in the industrial field have been strengthened with the conclusion of a series of agreements under which Algeria will receive a loan of approximately $100 million. This crowned the visit to the Spanish capital of an Algerian delegation yesterday, which was representing the financial and economic sectors.

The first loan of roughly $100 million is for setting up a plastics factory in Skikda for the production of polyethylene. The factory's annual estimated production capacity is 130,000 tonnes. Polyethylene is used by manufacturing industry to produce various types of packaging for foodstuffs, industrial products, and materials for export. The Skikda factory falls within the framework of Algeria's policy of exploiting national raw materials and ending imports of high-density polyethylene.

Representatives of the National Enterprise for Maritime Passenger Transport [ENTMV] also signed an agreement yesterday in Madrid on a loan of $90 million. With this loan the ENTMV will acquire a modern sea ferry that conforms more closely to current standards, thus renewing its fleet, which is more than 20 years old. The ferry, which will be built in the shipyards of Valencia, will be handed over to the ENTMV within 20 months of the signing of the agreement. The ferry will carry 1,300 passengers and 500 cars, or the equivalent of 60 trucks.

EC Credit Given for Algerian Housing Sector

LD2610100393 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0800 26 Oct 93

[Text] It was learned from the Housing Ministry that Housing Minister Mohamed Meghlaoui and Trabani Augustino, chairman of the delegation of the European groups committees, yesterday signed in Algiers a protocol agreement that includes measures for implementing the financing agreement on consolidating and organizing the housing sector.

The financing agreement that was signed in Brussels on 14 September stipulated non-repayable financing of 70 million European Monetary Units [ECUs] directed toward importing secondary construction materials for completing the social houses [as heard] that are in the process of construction.

Minister Urges Transition to Market Economy

LD2710091293 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Economy Minister Mourad Benachnou has called for a break from the old methods of managing the national economy, pointing out that it is now possible to move to a market economy because new suitable conditions for doing so now exist.

Mr. Mourad Benachnou asserted, at the second day of the national symposium on how institutions should face up to the crisis, the government's determination to open the door for Algerian and foreign investors.

Egypt

Two Americans, 1 Frenchman Killed in Attack

NC2710060393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0040 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 26 Oct (MENA)—An Interior Ministry source has stated that at approximately 2230 on 26 October a young man opened fire with a pistol at the guests of the al-Falujah Cafeteria at the Semiramis Hotel, killing three persons, two Americans and one Frenchman. Three other persons—one Syrian, one American, and one French—were also injured. The police arrested the culprit and seized the weapon used in the attack. The defendant's name is Sabir Muhammad Farhat. He is 28 years old and works as a roving musician. The pistol used in the shooting belongs to his father; he stole the pistol from his father. He confessed to carrying out the attack.

The source added that preliminary information indicates that the defendant had been dismissed from military service because of lack of self-commitment ['adam al-iltizam al-nafsi].

Interior Ministry officials went to the scene of the incident. Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi visited the al-Qasr al-'Ayni Hospital to inspect the wounded. The public prosecutor was notified of the incident. The Interior Ministry will issue further statements on the incident in the future.

The Interior Ministry source added that the dead are: Coby Hoffman, 45 years old, American; Fernand Bouland, 45 years old, French and dean of the Law College of Marseilles; and Robert Louis Guidi, 40 years old, American.

The wounded are Muhammad 'Aqqad, Syrian, 50 years old, a lawyer; Merrill Kramer, 39 years old, American, a lawyer; and Luigi Dagu, 48 years old, Italian, an adviser at the Justice Ministry.

Officer Killed by Gunmen in Asyut Governorate

NC2710063593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2220 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Asyut, 26 Oct (MENA)—Lieutenant Colonel Abu-Bakr 'Azmi Abu-Salim of the Interior Ministry's Training Department was killed at 2130 today when unidentified gunmen shot him in front of his family's home in Abu Tij in Asyut Governorate.

The security forces headed for the scene of the crime and cordoned off the area to search for the culprits. The Abu-Tij Prosecution Office has launched an investigation of the incident.

Interior Ministry on Murder

NC2710082093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2315 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 26 Oct (MENA)—An official security source in the Ministry of Interior has stated that at about 2200 today as Lieutenant Colonel Abu-Bakr 'Azmi 'Abd-al-Qadir Abu-Salim of the Training Department was standing in front of his home in Abu Tij, unidentified persons opened fire at him and fled. The officer succumbed to his wounds.

A statement by the Interior Ministry said that officials in the Interior Ministry, the State Investigation Department, the Public Security Department, and the various investigation agencies headed for the scene of the incident together with forensic experts to examine the place.

The police are surrounding the area and searching for the perpetrators. The prosecution has been notified to launch an investigation.

Mubarak Says Violence 'Has Now Subsided'

NC2610171693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1450 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Washington, 26 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has emphasized that violence has subsided in Egypt and that Egypt is safer than any country in the world.

Speaking to the American television network ABC today, the president said he hoped that U.S. aid to Egypt would stay at the same level it is now, because Egypt is currently implementing an economic reform program and many projects that need to be completed by the end of 1996. This requires U.S. support, he said.

President Mubarak stressed that Egypt's role in the Middle East is extremely vital. Without Egypt's help, he said, it would have been difficult to launch the peace process.

The following is the text of the interview with President Mubarak, which was conducted by the well-known correspondent Charles Gibson:

[Gibson] President Husni Mubarak met with U.S. President Bill Clinton yesterday amid tight security in Washington. I spoke to President Mubarak about an hour after that meeting, which was the first between the U.S. and Egyptian presidents since the signing of the peace treaty between Israel and the PLO at the White House last month. I asked President Mubarak, after noting that three of Yasir 'Arafat's senior aides were killed after the signing, whether those assassinations were a warning to any Arab leader who is considering signing a treaty with Israel.

[Mubarak] With all the bloodshed and hatred that has gone on for such a long time, you should not expect things to go smoothly after the signing of the declaration

of principles. There are still problems with the negotiations, in addition to some other problems in the West Bank. Therefore, you should expect such incidents.

[Gibson] So you were not surprised by those incidents?

[Mubarak] No, I was not surprised.

[Gibson] Do you believe that Yasir 'Arafat is personally threatened?

[Mubarak] He may be. When you are required to make difficult decisions, you are subject to many dangers.

[Gibson] I have never seen Pennsylvania Avenue closed for the visit of any foreign head of state, and now it is closed for your visit. Are you in imminent danger and do you feel this danger all the time?

[Mubarak] I had not heard about this until I arrived here. We have no information about any threats, but you should expect anything, anytime.

[Gibson] Do you think this is a reflection of what is happening in your country, the sort of fundamentalist violence that is going on there?

[Mubarak] Not to this extent, not to this extent. Violence in our country has now subsided, and Egypt is safer than any other country in the world.

[Gibson] Do you really believe that? I understand that 200 people have been killed by fundamentalists since the beginning of the year.

[Mubarak] All those who were killed were fundamentalists: 130 to be exact. Fifty two fundamentalists were killed, and 14 others were sentenced to death [figures as received]. These are exactly the figures we have. I have never heard the figure 200.

[Gibson] Many people believe that much of what happened is the outcome of Egyptian policies. It also represents an opposition to reports about imported violence.

[Mubarak] No. Fundamentalists are found throughout the world. You can find them in all the Arab countries, as well as in the United States and in Britain. Therefore, many incidents occur all over the world. This, however, does not mean that fundamentalists or religious people are behind all the world's problems.

[Gibson] But they are firmly dealt with in your country?

[Mubarak] Yes, this happens in our country.

[Gibson] The trial of the defendants accused of bombing the World Trade Center is being held in New York. Do you have any doubt that these defendants are guilty?

[Mubarak] What doubts? I will not interfere in this issue. They are in New York, and you have a judicial system. We will not interfere in this system.

[Gibson] I am asking about your personal feelings.

[Mubarak] I heard that they want to pursue me here in Washington. You can expect anything from these people.

[Gibson] Let's talk about foreign aid, which is always a controversial issue in this country. Do you expect that the current level of foreign aid to Egypt will continue?

[Mubarak] We hope that the level of aid will continue because we are undertaking economic reform programs. These programs require U.S. support. This is a very important matter because we have many projects that must be completed by the end of 1996. Therefore, any sharp cut in aid will create problems for us.

[Gibson] Egypt received 10 percent of all U.S. foreign aid last year. What has the world received in return for this money?

[Mubarak] Regional stability and the peace process. We are working very hard. Without Egypt, it would have been extremely difficult for even the United States to advance the peace process. Therefore, relations between Egypt and the United States are extremely important in this part of the world. Egypt has a vital role in the Middle East. We did not receive 10 percent of the aid. Israel has received a similar amount of aid, perhaps more. Why do you only mention Egypt?

[Gibson] Aid to Egypt has been high for several years, and the criticism being leveled against your country is that the standard of living is still the same or not much higher than it was when you began receiving aid.

[Mubarak] No, the standard of living is improving now that we have started economic reforms. Economic reforms in any country always have side effects.

Look at the economic reforms in Russia and the economic reform process in the former East Bloc countries. Look at what is happening.

I think that conditions in Egypt are much better than in any other country going through a process of economic reform.

[Gibson] Regarding the situation in Somalia, do you have an opinion about Clinton's foreign policy there?

[Mubarak] I agree 100 percent with what the U.S. Administration is doing in Somalia. You cannot remain isolated and aloof from the outside world.

[Gibson] Is it practical now to talk about the withdrawal of U.S. forces from Somalia by 31 March?

[Mubarak] Look. You are the biggest country on earth. You are the only superpower. You have commitments, and withdrawing these forces without solving the problem would be a mistake.

IMF's Camdessus Supports Economic Reform

NC2710115393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2205 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Washington, 26 Oct (MENA)—IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus has affirmed that the IMF totally agrees with the economic reform measures adopted by the Egyptian Government.

Speaking to MENA following a meeting with President Mubarak today, Camdessus said: We support these measures. Egypt needs such an economic climate to create more job opportunities and establish an open economy.

Camdessus expressed his pleasure at the responsiveness the international community has shown toward recent economic reforms in Egypt. He said that he congratulated President Mubarak on the great efforts Egypt has made and is still making to readjust its economic course, restructure its economy, and give wider opportunities to the private sector.

AL-SHA'B Chief Editor To Cover Mubarak Visit

NC2710115993 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 22 Oct 93 p 1

[Text] AL-SHA'B Chief Editor Majdi Ahmad Husayn left the day before yesterday, Wednesday, for the United States. He accompanied the chief editors of the government and opposition newspapers to cover President Mubarak's visit at the invitation of Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif.

Al-Baz on Relations With Sudan, Libya, Iran

JN2610154293 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 25-31 Oct 93 pp 18-20

[Report on an interview with Dr. Usamah al-Baz, director of the president's Office for Political Affairs, by unidentified reporter in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] AL-WASAT asked Dr. al-Baz to comment on the decline in official Egyptian accusations against Sudan and Iran for supporting extremists, and whether these accusations were, in the first place, not based on categorical evidence. He answered: "The terrorist activity that Egypt witnessed between 1992 and the first half of this year was carried out by secret organizations adopting terrorism to achieve their schemes. This terrorist activity was either domestic or foreign. In the first case, some Arab elements who previously went to Afghanistan were involved. The role of the Afghan hotbed was evident. Those elements used to move from Afghanistan to Peshawar in Pakistan and then to certain places in Iran, such as the city of Mashhad. In addition to the physical movement, there have been acts of collusion, sponsorship, and funding through numerous networks and channels. Some extremist groups and Iran have had joint interests.

"As for Sudan, it trained extremists from Egypt and North African countries in remote farms. Under the guise of training in modern farming, those extremists were trained for terrorist attacks. In most cases, the trainers were Iranians. This has been confirmed by some of those who received training there and were subsequently smuggled into Egypt. Extremists were either smuggled through the Sudanese-Egyptian border immediately or from western Sudan to Libya without the knowledge of Libyan authorities. From there, extremists would attempt to cross into Egypt, taking advantage of the cancellation of border points, the simplified procedures, and the movements of tribes in the region. Among those who were arrested, there were Egyptians and other Arab nationalities. They have made confessions. We do not want to embarrass anybody.

"The brothers in Sudan denied any training or funding relationship with extremists. In fact, the training did not take place in camps, but in farms. Those who were arrested admitted that some trainers spoke Persian only. Of course, Sudan has no interest in such a role. However, some speak of an interest for the National Islamic Front. We wanted Sudan to distance itself from such acts, whether they are directed against Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria, or, at a certain times, Libya itself. Besides, such acts cannot change regimes. They have been countered by capable institutions, even in Algeria, which was thought to be a likely scene for the change desired by extremists."

"The problem is not with the existence of an Islamic current that expresses a certain view. The problem begins when a group uses force to seize power. It is in this sense that Sudan has no right to interfere in the affairs of these countries, and cannot take such action. It is enough that these countries do not interfere in Sudan's affairs. The big brother does not interfere in the affairs of the younger brother, so does the younger brother have the right to interfere? We think that Sudan's real interests lie in not adopting such methods. Improving relations could be possible if such methods were abandoned. We have waited for a long time, observed the situation for years, and spoken only after we have obtained conclusive evidence. Acknowledging the well-known rules of conduct between neighboring states makes dialogue easy. There have been contacts since the last Egyptian-Sudanese summit. There is no date for a new summit, but there is nothing that prevents such a thing."

Does Egypt seek a relationship with Sudan similar to the one existing between Syria and Lebanon? He answered: "There is no one fixed model for a relationship between two neighboring countries. Relations go through various stages. The relationship between Syria and Lebanon is now different from what it was 10 years ago, and perhaps it will be different by the end of the century from what it is now. The nature of the relationship depends on mutual interests and is based on the will of the two peoples." [passage omitted]

"We deal with Sudan from a specific perspective, which is the relationship of good neighborliness. We do not want privileges in Sudan, and we do not say that we are the stronger party. But we think that Sudan should at least not pose a threat to Egypt. This is not acceptable, and if it happens, then we will reject it by friendly and unfriendly means. We view relations between the Egyptian and Sudanese people as unchanging relations that cannot be infringed upon, regardless of understanding or differences with the Sudanese Government. We do not want to make Sudan an area of control or vital influence. What we want is good relations based on principles of good-neighborliness."

"In this context, we can also view the relationship with Libya. We currently have good relations with Libya in all respects. There are no sensitivities despite the fact that Libya's population is far less that Egypt's. As an experiment, we removed customs barriers and facilitated traffic a great deal. When there are different views, we discuss things, since no one says there should be identical views on all issues. We think it is a very good experiment, and we hope for a similar relationship with Sudan." [passage omitted]

Regarding the possibility of reaching a settlement to the Lockerbie crisis, al-Baz said: "We still think a peaceful settlement is possible to prevent an increase in violence in the region. We oppose any use of force, and think that the conflict can be resolved through negotiations, compromise, and understanding. The truth is that Libya has done a great deal to comply with the Security Council resolution in this regard. What remains are points relating to how four the defendants in the Lockerbie and the French plane cases will be tried. We think that even if the situation gets more tense and new measures are taken, it will still be possible to reach an understanding between Libya and the Western countries."

Resignation of Bank Governor Explained

NC2610190193 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 21 Oct 93 p 14

[Column by Mustafa Amin: "A Thought"]

[Text] The resignation of Dr. Salah Hamid, governor of the Central Bank, remains a mystery. When the governor of a central bank—the bank of banknotes—resigns anywhere in the world, people are supposed to know why he resigned one of the most important positions in the state. But Dr. Hamid's resignation was reported in two lines in the newspapers, as though he had been dismissed instead of submitting a voluntary resignation.

The truth is that the Central Bank governor resigned his post on 10 October due to a dispute with Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi over the budget deficit, credit, the public sector, and other issues. It is the Central Bank's job to monitor the government's performance and expenditures.

Dr. Hamid has had disputes with the government throughout his service in the Central Bank, although there was no altercations or scuffles. None of the rulers had ever tried to hit the Central Bank governor, except when Deputy Prime Minister Jamal Salim tried to strike al-Shamsi Pasha, chairman of the board of the National Bank. The latter had to flee, and Jamal Salim ran after him.

What we know is that Dr. Salah Hamid objected to the government's financial conduct. Paying no heed to these objections, the government went on doing what it wanted. Dr. Hamid would not have resigned if a new government had been formed. After he learned that Dr. Sidqi would form the new government, Hamid resigned because he could not cooperate with the prime minister.

The people should know the reasons for the Central Bank governor's resignation. They should be told why the resignation was immediately accepted, without any attempt to dissuade Dr. Hamid from quitting.

Libya

National Salvation Front Says Uprising Put Down

PM2610180193 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 26 Oct 93 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Libyan Opposition Front Claims Responsibility for Mutiny and Accuses al-Qadhdhafi of Using Air Force To Put It Down"]

[Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—The opposition's National Front for the Salvation of Libya [NFSL] yesterday accused Chairman Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi of using Air Force formations flown by foreign pilots in indiscriminate bombing operations against military positions and concentrations as well as residential areas to crush a mutiny by military units in the areas of Bani-Walid and Misratah.

This came in a statement issued by the NFSL yesterday under the headline "October Uprising Carried Out by Units of Libyan Armed Forces." It said that those who planned the uprising had organizational links with it.

According to the NFSL's story, the mutiny-uprising against al-Qadhdhafi's regime took place in the central region and was supported by a number of police officers and civilians as well as some military units in other areas.

In its statement the NFSL said that the regime reacted savagely to the uprising, resorting to aerial bombardment, killings, and executions which, according to the NFSL, claimed scores of military and civilian victims, as well as large-scale arrests affecting hundreds of citizens.

It said that "the uprising was an expression of the Libyan people's will to get rid of the regime and a practical manifestation of the determination to save the homeland and fulfill the national objectives."

Concluding its statement, the NFSL greeted "the heroes of the glorious October uprising" and valued their stand and sacrifices. It appealed to regional and international organizations to intervene to protect the detainees.

Air Traffic To Stop for Mourning Day 26 Oct

LD2410182193 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1600 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Text] Tripoli, 24 Oct—The General People's Committee for Utilities, Tourism, and Communications today announced that, on the basis of the resolutions of Basic People's Congresses and in implementation of the General People's Committee's decision declaring 26 October of every year as an official day of mourning in the Great Jamahiriyah, all flights will be halted on 26 October 1993 as from 0600 [0400 GMT] until 1800 at all airports in the Great Jamahiriyah and flights of all operating airlines.

All international telephone and cable communications will be stopped on that day as from 0600 until 1800.

Morocco

Reports of Direct Talks With Polisario Denied

LD2510191093 Rabat MAP in Arabic 1540 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] Rabat, 25 Oct (MAP)—Some news agencies have over the past few days reported that "direct talks" would start today in New York between Morocco and the so-called Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro].

In reply to a question about the issue, a spokesman for the Moroccan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation pointed out to MAP that Morocco will never accept entering into any direct talks with this so-called movement. The spokesman affirmed that the Laayoune talks in July 1993 took place between the Saharans, and that Morocco considers the talks in New York to be a continuation of the Laayoune talks, which do not have any aim or subject other than enabling the Saharans to discuss among themselves the future prospects of the region under the umbrella of the Moroccan family.

The spokesman pointed out that Morocco still adheres to this unambiguous stance, an ambiguity which the so-called Polisario and some news agencies are attempting to ascribe to the issue.

UN Delegation: Morocco Seeks Resumed Dialogue

LD2610142793 Rabat MAP in English 1243 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] New York, Oct 26 (MAP)—'The Kingdom of Morocco, faithful to traditions of tolerance, openness and cooperation, has positively responded to the invitation of special representative of UN secretary general [Sahabzadeh Yaqub Khan] and to pieces of advice by some friendly countries to carry on the Laayoune initiative in an attempt to build confidence and create a climate of serenity needed for the conduct of a difficult operation', says a press statement circulated Monday at the UNO [United Nations Organization] by the Moroccan delegation to the organization.

The statement notes that it is within the same spirit that the delegation present in New York, composed of eminent members from the Special Consultative Council for Saharan Affairs intends to resume exploratory dialogue in line with the royal message calling for the need to favor dialog and concertation to settle the Sahara issue.

The delegation taking part in the New York talks will survey with Moroccan Sahrawi [as received] from the camps the economic, social and cultural aspects of the ongoing development process in the Sahara and hear viewpoints of their brothers from the Tindouf camps.

In Rabat, spokesman of the Foreign Ministry denied news reports about 'direct negotiations' with the separatists and said the New York meeting will consist of discussions among Sahrawis on future prospects of the territory.

Moroccan daily 'L'OPINION' said the referendum cannot be indefinitely delayed and called the UNO to end a conflict that harms peace and security in the region and hampers the achievement of Maghreban peoples aspirations. The daily of the Istiqlal Party asserts that the UN projected referendum will only confirm the Sahara as Moroccan territory and this is a fact the Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro] perfectly knows and that it is why the separatist front is trying to hinder by all means the implementation of the peace plan.

Obstacles erected by the Polisario should not prevent the world body from shouldering its responsibilities, went the daily.

Morocco cannot tolerate the continuous presence on its territory of elements of the UN mission in charge of preparing the holding of the referendum and it will not accept that a part of Moroccans remains sequestered in the Lahmada camps in violation of international law, it continued.

Rabat-Polisario Talks Postponed

LD2610201393 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Excerpt] Negotiations between Morocco and the Polisario have faltered and have been postponed indefinitely.

The UN envoy in charge of the Saharan issue has had meetings with each delegation separately to resolve procedural matters. However, so far the two conflicting sides have not held direct talks. [passage omitted]

King Hassan Receives 'Alliance' Party Leaders

LD2610140793 Rabat MAP in English 1229 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Rabat, Oct. 26 (MAP)—King Hassan II received Monday in Ifrane leaders of the four political parties forming the 'Alliance', namely the Constitutional Union (UC), the Popular Movement (MP), the National Democrat Party (PND) and the National Popular Movement (MNP).

A release by the Ministry of the Royal Household, Protocol and Chancellery said were present at the audience UC Chairman Maati Bouabid who was accompanied by Mohamed Abied, MP Secretary General Mohand Laensar who was accompanied by Said Ameskane, PND Secretary General Arsalane el-Jadidi who was accompanied by Abdallah Kadiri and MNP Secretary General Mahjoubi Aherdane who was accompanied by Bouazza Iken.

During the audience, King Hassan II surveyed the current situation prevailing in the country and informed the delegates of the four parties on the proposals he made to leaders of the political parties of the former opposition when he received them last Friday in the royal palace of Ifrane.

The sovereign had then proposed to the former opposition parties' delegates to participate in the coming government.

King Hassan II will again receive the leaders of the 'Alliance' parties immediately after receiving the answer of the former opposition.

The former opposition was made up of the Socialist Union of Popular Forces, the Istiqlal Party, the Party for Progress and Socialism and the Organization for Democratic and Popular Action.

The audience was attended by adviser to the sovereign Ahmed Reda Guedira and secretary general of the government Abbes el-Kaissi.

Human Rights Group Condemns Prison Conditions

LD2710123993 Paris Radio France International in French 0630 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Excerpt] A damning report has been published by the Moroccan Human Rights Organization [OMDH] on detention conditions in the prisons of the sherif kingdom. In this report, which calls for the release of all political prisoners, the organization protests against the treatment, which violates human rights, to which prisoners are subjected. Some prisoners are now on hunger strike in several prisons in Morocco. Patrick Adam reports from Rabat:

[Adam] Since the beginning of this year, detention conditions in prisons have deteriorated. Successive hunger strikes by prisoners of conscience, sometimes by common law prisoners, bear witness to this. In the prisons of Casablanca and Kenitra, and more recently in Oujda or now in Fes, demands are the same: the right to medical treatment, to decent food, to studies, and—what touched off an explosion—to preserve visiting rights and direct contact with families. In Fes recently, a lawyer could not meet his client. The OMDH points to the fact that apart from overcrowding or malnutrition, medical treatment is absent, even in the case of serious illnesses. The OMDH also mentions bad treatment, even inhuman sanctions. Hence this sinister statement from the OMDH: This extreme deterioration of detention conditions has led to many deaths, to many suicides, and there is more to come. [passage omitted]

Morocco Denounces Burundi 'Putsch'

LD2610143993 Rabat MAP in English 1313 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Excerpt] Rabat, Oct 26 (MAP)—Morocco condemned Monday the military putsch in Burundi which cost the life of President Melchior Ndadaye together with other Burundian officials. A communique by the Moroccan foreign department said the Moroccan Government which followed with concern the latest developments in Burundi, denounces the coup and deplores the tragic events which forced thousands of Burundian people to flee the country. The kingdom is convinced that Burundi needs to return to constitutional legitimacy in order to restore peace and stability, the communique added. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Al-Bashir Addresses National Assembly

AB2610213693 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1335 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Speech by Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, president of the Republic, to the nation at the Transitional National Assembly, TNA, on 25 October—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] Brothers and sisters, members of the TNA: I salute you as you meet for your third session, devoting all your time to God, in the service of creatures and the construction of the country. As you end a session, you prepare for the next. [passage omitted]

When the national salvation revolution [NRS] arrived, it did not resort to tranquilizers or placebos, but sought to diagnose the disease and cure it. It therefore laid down new ethics, made dialogue the modus operandi, and held conferences on all issues and subjects, conferences in which all sectors and groups were represented in all their colors, ethnicities, and religions. It treated the resolutions adopted by these conferences seriously and implemented them. [passage omitted]

The flag of peace and dialogue will continue to be hoisted by the revolution and the loyal people concerned

for the homeland's interests both in the north and in the south. In this context, the NSR will strive to render successful the initiative of the neighboring Inter-Governmental Authority on Drought and Development [IGADD] member states. I wish them success in settling the matter. I must here record my gratitude to brother Presidents Daniel arap Moi, Meles Zenawi, Isayas Afewerki, and Yoweri Museveni. I hope their efforts are crowned with success so that we can confirm to the world that the sons of this continent are the most capable of dealing with their problems. Nor must I forget to salute former President Carter for his efforts to bring us together, reconcile us, and stop the fighting between the sons of the one homeland.

From this platform, I wish to appeal to all the sons of Sudan bearing arms to reconsider their stance and ponder long over the consequences of the actions they are now embarking on. I repeat my call to let reason and responsibility be the arbiters. I confirm that [word indistinct] of the revolution are principles we believe in and bases we respect. There will be no bargaining [words indistinct] or political maneuvers.

Brothers and sisters, I now return to the new stage we have just entered, namely that of the republican system. I want to begin my remarks with a special salute for the RCC, which prepared for this and strove to achieve it. The members worked day and night to bring out this pioneering national scheme. They were paragons in their lack of interest in power and pomp. They were free from whims and selfishness. They put the interests of Sudan above everything else. Sincere salutes and appreciation to them.

I wish to salute also the help the People's Defense Forces gave the Armed Forces, which themselves produced those men. They were the defending shields and firm [words indistinct]. They were the ones who stood by this system and preserved Sudan's territorial integrity and the people's creed. They will find in me, God willing, great interest, concern, and care from my position as president of the Republic and from my direct position as commander in chief of the Armed forces this interest will be pursued by the Ministry of Defense which, in its new phase, will absorb all the transformations affecting the system of government. [passage omitted]

Brothers and sisters, the republican stage we are initiating now is based on clear vision. It is a nascent and (?impartial) republic that will take the best from the world's legacy of intellect and theory, link it with religious values and, God willing, it will be [word indistinct]. It will adhere to divine guidance and follow the course of the messengers of God. It will build its society on unity and cohesiveness and not on division and conflict. It will rise on balanced moral and material foundations. [passage omitted]

The Decree No. 7 acknowledges that Islam is the guiding religion, which is embraced by the majority of the Sudanese people. Commitment to it is obligatory and resorting to it is a (?firm matter) and being guided by it is a pledge. There will be no bargaining over this matter, and there will be no negligence with regard to it because it is an obligatory trust and the faith of (?surrender).

The decree also confirms a koranic text, namely: there is no compulsion in religion. Every man is free in what he believes, and there will be no restriction on anyone concerning worship. We are saying this not to please or appease others. It is a basic matter in which we seek to obey God. [passage omitted]

Brothers and sisters, as for authority, the Decree No. 7 referred to a number of principles that clarify duties and rights. It put duties first so that nobody demands a right without performing what is due from him, with an awareness of his responsibilities and out of faith in the values of giving and sacrificing.

Science is a modern necessity and no civilization or [word indistinct] can be without it. Moreover, acquisition of science is a religious duty. Science is the ladder which the citizen must scale to undertake the duty of research and the giving of advice. There is no good in a society where the learned remain silent and the ignorant follow the wrong path. Giving advice is part of religion, to be given to leaders and the common people [passage omitted]

Brothers and sisters, the question of institutions [words indistinct] was not a political maneuver. It is in conformity with what has been laid down in our strategy. The first stage between the year 1992 and the year 1994 should see political and constitutional structuring reaching its peak in the states. The following stage will be elections of the National Assembly and the president of the Republic. The constitutional decrees contain a number of schedules and time tables for the dissolution of the states' national assemblies and the Federal National Assembly. An election law will be issued which will define and regulate relationships between options. It will define qualifications, the right of nomination, the right of election, and the administration of the election process.

I assure you that we will adhere to the implementation of what has been stated in the decrees. We earlier assured you that every individual in this nation will be free and responsible for his choice. The state assures him his freedom and responsibility so that he can choose with clarity. There will be choice in nomination. [Word indistinct] in accordance with ethical controls. Representation is a responsibility and a trust [passage omitted]

Brothers and sisters, [word indistinct] there is no going back on freedom. There will be no return to hateful party fanaticism and moribund sectarian politics. That is a page that has been turned over for ever, God willing, in the history of this country. This does not mean that the revolution will prevent anyone from participating, or hold anyone responsible for past history. The door is open for anyone to enter public service with the concept of good works and worship.

I address an appeal from here to all the sons of Sudan, inside and outside the country, including those who have doubts or who are opponents, to return to a situation where we are all equal, and where we will not worship anyone besides God, and will not ascribe partners unto him [koranic saying].

I assure you that the revolution under the republican system believes in unity and cooperation. There will be no bias in favor of any political, sectarian, or party group, whatever name it carries. The revolution extends its clean hand to all the sons of the homeland who believe in its heritage, values, and civilization, and in working for its elevation and [word indistinct]. Come, let us extend our hands to one another [words indistinct] so that we can uplift this generous land with impartiality, self-denial, and readiness for sacrifice. [passage omitted]

I wish to announce that there will be new measures to combat unlawful enrichment. There will be corrective organs and systems to call people to account in the administration. Brothers and sisters, constitutional Decree No. 7 has confirmed that the judiciary is based on evidence and judgment and the dispensing of justice. Its supervisor is God Almighty, for he is the all-knowing and all-seeing, aware of everything. The dispenser is the learned judge, working, just, and worthy of emulation, who strives in a good way among the people. I assure you that we at the Presidency of the Republic will persevere for the independence of the judiciary as an act of worship and make people equal under it.

We will strive to provide all enabling factors to allow judges to discharge their duties in preserving rights and redressing injustices. To confirm this independence a Higher Judiciary Council will be set up, God willing, which will foster this institution, develop it, and push it forwards everywhere. The judge will be able to sit before litigants to determine a case for them. Our care and fostering will include the auxiliary justice institutions, such as the prosecution army and the police, so that the pursuit of justice can be performed in its ideal form.

Brothers and sisters, to achieve greater justice, on the basis of our faith that it is a strong pillar and a secure way to gain goodness and as a door through which come blessings from heaven to produce the good things of this earth, I will work to convene appeal sessions and direct meetings in the capitals of the states, where I will meet all those who have grievances and listen to all complaints.

I will endeavor to understand the conditions of the subjects because they are my responsibility, for which I have to account to God. I now direct the brothers in the Office of the President of the Republic to issue a circular about this matter and to announce it to the people, those in near and remote areas, the rich and the poor. This should ward off injustices and preserve rights in a balanced and coordinated manner, in harmony with the state's right to maintain public service and to keep away corruption and unfairness. To implement the recommendations on justice and legal reform and to achieve completion of the structure of justice, we will work to set up a justice council under the chairmanship of the president of the Republic.

The council will undertake planning for justice and coordination of [word indistinct], and it will supervise the establishment of a national center for legal reform and training. [passage omitted]

Brothers and sisters, following the progress achieved in economic activities and the persevering movement in different sectors of the economy, the NSR will continue its reform programs by implementing its development plan, taking into account the fact that the agricultural sector is the leading sector. It is determined to reach its announced goals in achieving self-sufficiency and surpluses in the strategic crops such as sorghum, wheat, sugar, cotton, and oil seeds. It will continue its support for this sector by announcing encouraging prices, which should provide incentives for the real producers. The NSR confirms that it will review all the loopholes that accompanied previous pricing and marketing policies. This should ensure fair distribution and compensation in accordance with the effort invested. The brothers in the economic sector should pay special attention to that sector. It is no good for a nation to keep importing its food. [passage omitted]

Brothers and sisters, the revolution will continue its efforts to extract oil, which has become a reality after being a dream and a hope in our minds. This course is the only way of tackling satisfactorily the emergency hardship that we believe will not end as long as we depend on imports. The revolution will also proceed, as it has pledged, in fostering the textile sector as a leader in Sudanese industry. We will give ample opportunities to the private sector to move extensively into the industrial sphere so that we can build a state of science and technology. To this end, the private sector must reconsider its priorities, to harmonize them with the priorities of society. It should dispense with easy and quick profits, which are soon consumed by the fires of inflation. It should make practical contributions to industrial development that should bring in money even if it takes longer to harvest. [passage omitted]

The revolution will proceed with firm steps in the service sector, God willing, and will give an impetus to the moves toward rehabilitation which have begun in the transport sector—land, sea, and air. There will be an increase in the number of different transport units. Here I must commend the clear leap forward in the railways regarding the transport of goods, improvement of services, and access to stations where services have been suspended for many years. As for air transport, the state will open this sphere to the private sector to strengthen and develop it. The spirit of competition should drive all to improve performance and services.

Brothers and sisters, the revolution considers the efforts started in the sphere of communications as a step that must be followed by others, in order to link people and

not break contacts between them. Communications should strengthen relations. There will be expansion because we believe that there will be no development or investment without effective means of communication. [passage omitted]

Brothers and sisters, we have a country with ample resources, rich in manpower and diverse in resources both above and below ground. We are responsible for its development and this is a religious duty, as God says: He created you from the earth and gave you power over it. The authorities concerned must plan and invest. The investment laws should be reconsidered so as to provide the proper environment for investors, through encouragement and incentives. The requirements of everyone should be satisfied and every worker should enjoy the fruits of his labor.

To expand the utilization of resources and increase the country's revenue in foreign exchange, we look forward to our brother expatriates understanding the country's situation and investing their savings in private and public companies, following the example of their brothers within the country who offered their work, for little in return, to elevate this country and uphold its values. This should be apart from their direct contributions through compulsory payments that are levies for the dignity of their country and its strength and the independence of its decisions and freedom in what it says. I appeal to them once again to return home so that they may not miss [word indistinct] the rehabilitation of the country, and their reward will be from God. [passage omitted]

The revolution will provide the forces for general security that ensure the basic security of the homeland with all its means of development, to ensure the homeland's security in a world lacking in freedom and complete peace. In this regard I want, brothers, to refer to one of the important concepts that the revolution has worked to establish, namely, society's security. At the beginning, the revolution adopted a number of exceptional measures to ensure the security of the country and the people and to protect the nascent revolution. It was aware that the country, being in a state of war, was experiencing [words indistinct] and hour by hour to the extent that no one was safe in his home. The curfew measures that were initiated for military security were continued for society's security and to combat social evils. However, today we are proud and thank God that we have one of the safest capitals [words indistinct].

From here I direct the relevant authorities to lift the curfew measures...[prolonged applause] throughout the homeland with immediate effect while taking into consideration the regulations which prevent (?the breakdown) of security as a result of that. [passage omitted]

The revolution will renew its interest in the Muslim scholars [ulema] who are the descendants of the prophets. It will provide meetings for them to exchange ideas and advice and to foster Islamic scholarship and the call to Islam. The coming stage will see an extensive interest in mosques, which are houses for the worship of God. [passage omitted]

Brothers and sisters, constitutional Decree No. 7, which laid down the foundations of the Republic of Sudan, stressed that the country's foreign policy will be managed with dignity, and independently, without isolation or national bigotry, through regional and international relations for mutual understanding and cooperation and human unity, in a spirit which guarantees justice and removes injustice from the world order. This will be the basis of our foreign policy which should see, in the coming phase, confirmation of this concept. [passage omitted]

We will embark on strengthening relations with our neighbors, and we will support regional and bilateral relations—IGADD, the PTA [Preferential Trade Area], and the OAU. [passage omitted]

We will continue our cordial relations with our Arab brothers at the state and peoples' levels. [passage omitted]

I declare that we welcome the evacuation of international forces from fraternal Somalia and support a political solution to the problem. We declare our readiness to participate effectively to find a just solution so that peace can be restored to that dear fraternal land. [passage omitted]

Brothers and sisters, Sudan will continue to support the causes of Muslims in the world because this is an obligation dictated by religion and imposed by the (?voice) of human justice. We address an appeal to all the Muslims of the world that the time has come to unite our voices and strengthen our determination to remove the injustices imposed on any part of the Islamic body. [passage omitted]

This is my way, and let us pray to God to give us and those who come after us insight. God be praised and God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you all.

'Problems' Obstruct Accord Between Movements

PM2710100093 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 25 Oct 93 pp 1, 4

[Report by 'Uthman Mirghani: "Two Wings of Garang Movement Exchange Accusations Despite Washington Agreement"]

[Text] London—It appeared clear yesterday that the agreement between the two wings of the "Sudanese People's Liberation Movement" [SPLM], which was reached under U.S. sponsorship yesterday, is going to face major difficulties that could hamper its implementation. The wing led by by John Garang and the wing led by Rick Mashar have exchanged accusations in statements issued by their officials about the reasons that prevented the signing of the agreement and led to it

being issued without the two parties' signatures and in the form of a statement from the chairman of the subcommittee for African affairs in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Garang's wing accused the organization, which broke away from the movement and which is led by Mashar, of launching attacks on his fighters with support from the Sudanese Government. An official in the SPLM (Garang faction) office in Nairobi has said that Mashar's wing "is receiving aid and information from Khartoum."

A statement issued two days ago by Dr. Daynaq Akwani, representative and spokesman of the SPLO (Garang wing) in London, accused Riek Mashar and his group of "being committed to the [National Islamic] Front's government in Khartoum."

The statement said that Mashar had agreed to sign the agreement reached in Washington in response to an initiative from U.S. Congressman Harry Johnston, under the U.S. State Department's supervision. But at the last moment, he requested some time to consult with his colleagues. The statement added that Mashar returned to say that he was not going to sign before Garang agrees to sign, on the grounds that he is the leader of the SPLM's mainstream. The statement urged the international community, the U.S. Administration, the British Government, and the OAU to take steps against the Sudanese Government and those who cooperate with it (reference to Mashar's wing).

For its part, the united faction of the SPLM accused John Garang of obstructing the signing of the Washington statement. John Luke, spokesman for the faction has said that Garang refused to sign, insisting that that his group is the only organization which can describe itself as the SPLM.

It is noteworthy that this procedural dispute nearly torpedoed the agreement between the movement's two wings on working to resolve the disputes between them and on the principle of self-determination "for southern Sudan, al-Nubah mountains, al-Anqasna [as transliterated], and the other marginalized areas."

Although some circles believe that merely reaching the agreement is an important step toward resolving the disputes between the two warring wings, and that the fact that the agreement was not signed and was issued in the form of a statement through the U.S. Congress is a mere technicality, many observers believe that there are numerous problems obstructing the agreement between the two wings, especially in view of the lack of trust between the two leaderships.

Western Sahara

UN Representative Seeks To Renew Sahara Talks

LD2610102293 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] After the difficulties encountered in starting the negotiations at the last minute between the Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro] and Morocco, because of the composition of the Moroccan delegation, the special UN envoy entrusted with the Western Sahara managed to overcome the obstacles and had a meeting with the two Moroccan and Sahraoui delegations in indirect negotiations.

Sahabzadeh Yaqub Khan, the special representative of the UN secretary general, yesterday in New York met with the two Sahraoui and Moroccan delegations separately in an attempt to persuade the two sides in the conflict to sit at the negotiating table on serious and responsible bases and study the issues that concern the procedures of the negotiations in accordance with the invitation addressed to them, which called for submitting a list of the two delegations.

However, in the last minutes before the start of the negotiations, it transpired that the Moroccan delegation included in the list members of Sahraoui origin and others who split from the Polisario Front, including Omar Hadrami and Ibrahim Hakim. This matter, according to some quarters at the United Nations, placed the representative of the UN secretary general in a dilemma before beginning the negotiations.

The Polisario Front delegation, which is led by Bachir Mustapha El Sayed, refused to take part in the negotiations in view of the lack of a clear will on the part of Morocco as the Polisario Front delegation intimated.

The leader of the Sahraoui delegation pointed out that the delegation will remain in New York, if need be, in order to reach a fruitful way of solving the Sahraoui issue on the basis of the UN Security Council and OAU resolutions.

It is worth mentioning that the dispute between the Polisario Front and Morocco is on defining the criteria for the Sahraouis who have the right to vote in the self-determination, which the UN intends to hold in the Western Sahara.

Polisario Front To Participate in Talks

LD2410071993 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] The Polisario Front intends to take part, in an open spirit, in the second session of direct negotiations between itself and Morocco.

Bachir Mustapha Sayed, the chief negotiator in the peace process on the Western Sahara and member of the

Bachir Mustapha Sayed, the chief negotiator in the peace process on the Western Sahara and member of the coordination committee of the UN mission conducting the referendum in the Western Sahara, said that the Polisario Front intends to take part in this session with an open spirit and with much hope and strong determination to remove the barriers that obstructed the peace process in the Western Sahara.

On the other hand, Bachir Mustapha Sayed expressed his hope of bringing closer the prospects for peace and fixing the dates of the free and just referendum on the self-determination of the Sahraoui people.

The Polisario until now did not disclose the formation of its delegation to the negotiations. It is awaiting the formation of the Moroccan delegation.

The United Nations had stated that a second series of direct talks between Morocco and the Polisario Front will be held the day after tomorrow in New York on the sideline of the UN General Assembly session. In the meantime, the fourth decolonization committee continues is debates. The first meeting between the two sides took place in Laayoune, and it never had any success due to the dispute on the representation of the Moroccan delegation and the agenda.

Kuwait

Amir Invites National Assembly To Meet 26 Oct

LD2610164793 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 0626 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text of Decree No. 202/93 issued by Kuwaiti Amir Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah on 27 September; read by unidentified speaker at a National Assembly session—live]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful and most compassionate. Decree No. 202/93 inviting the National Assembly to convene for the second ordinary session of the seventh legislative term.

After examining the Constitution, and on the prime minister's proposal, and with the Council of Ministers' approval, we have decreed the following:

Article 1: The National Assembly is invited to convene for the second ordinary session of the seventh legislative term on the morning of Tuesday 11th Jumada al-Awwal 1414 AH, corresponding to 26 October 1993.

Article 2: The prime minister is responsible for implementing this decree. The National Assembly will be informed of it, and it will be published in the official gazette.

[signed] Amir of Kuwait Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah.

[signed] Prime Minister Sa'd al-'Abdallah Al-Salim al-Sabah.

Issued at Bayan Palace on 11th Rabi' al-Thani 1414 AH, corresponding to 27 September 1993 AD.

Amir Addresses Opening of National Assembly

LD2610182493 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 0609 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Address by Kuwati Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah at the opening of the second session of the Kuwaiti National Assembly—live]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Thanks be to God the Lord of the universe. Prayers and peace be upon our lord Muhammad the most honorable of all the messengers. Brothers: Peace, blessings, and the mercy of God be upon you.

With God's help and with his guidance, we open the second ordinary session of the seventh legislative term of the National Assembly.

The previous period was extremely difficult. We should have recovered from the setback that had been inflicted on us by the hand of treachery. Had it not been for the vitality displayed by the dear Kuwaiti people and their cohesion and political enlightenment, these great achievements in political, social, and construction fields would never have been possible.

We are all called upon to make more efforts, more sacrifices, and more cooperation in order that we rise above the calamity. We are not the first or the last to be afflicted by it.

Facts stand testimony to the energetic and responsible spirit that guided your work at your previous session. [passage omitted]

Probably the most prominent achievement was the understanding between the legislative and executive authorities. This has actually been a reflection of the cohesion of the various groups of the Kuwaiti people. The calamity that had fallen on us has not yet come to an end. Our enemy is still lying in wait for us.

Our permanent tenants are based on our Gulf, Arab, and Islamic existence and on our interaction with the world in which we live and with its events from which we should take heed and take lessons and be fully aware of our position in this world and our relationship with it.

[Passage omitted] In order to make society dynamic, prosperous, productive, and ready to face up to a more complicated life and whose members are equipped with the necessary expertise and readiness to meet head on an era characterized by rapid changes, it is paramount to carry out studies and surveys and draw up plans for the next century's Kuwait as well as to prepare generations for shouldering the responsibility and the leadership during the new era—a matter which will also help our future generations from not being left trailing behind others.

In order to secure the aforementioned aim, we must address two problems: First, reform the management side of our public and private institutions, which will lead to resolving a great deal of problems because the administration should be a credible tool addressing the real problem and not merely paying attention to slogans. [koranic verse omitted]

Second, taking firm and vigorous line against corruption and corrupted people. [passage indistinct] [passage omitted]

Brothers, for our steps toward our objective to be firm, we have to be realistic and to be aware of our capacity, and our ambitions must be within the range of our capabilities so that we are not disappointed. [passage omitted]

Speaker's Address to Assembly

LD2610185993 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 0617 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Speech by Kuwaiti Speaker Ahmad 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sadun to the National Assembly—live]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful; peace and prayers be upon his Prophet Muhammad. Your noble highness the amir; colleagues

and our respected guests. God's peace and blessings be upon you. [passage omitted]

Your highness the amir, honoring this grand ceremony bears a great significance and an even greater symbolism. First of all, this ceremony succeeds a brighter leaf of national action that was turned over only recently; this leaf was written with the sweat, minds, and effort of all those who had contributed or helped toward the establishment of this institution during the first ordinary session of the current legislative term, that lasted until 7 September 1993. [passage omitted]

It is true that the burden is heavy, the mission is difficult, and the responsibility is big. However, and God willing, we will be stronger than the burden, more capable to overcome the difficulties, and stronger to shoulder the responsibility and honor the trust placed in us.

We realize that despite a difference in opinion and conflicting points of views, this constitutes a mark of strength, a proof that we are on the right track, and a sign of maturity as long as everybody has the interest of the nation at heart.

Your highness the amir, the world is moving around us at a fast pace, and a new order is taking shape at an even faster pace, to the extent that we are today witnessing a new map of the international community taking shape. Because of the political and economic developments and common interests, this community was forced to endorse new elements in the form of different blocks. This matter urges us to reconsider our situation in light of what is happening in the international arena and to embark upon embracing these changes to determine our position, shape our stance, and choose our path before it is too late. [passage omitted]

Your highness the amir, while we come upon this session of parliament—one among a series of parliamentary sessions, with which the country has been eager to draw its features and define its path—we are hopeful to reach the most noble objectives, with God's help, in order to realize the hopes aspired to by everyone through creative cooperation, common understanding and mutual contribution, and to consolidate stability under the shelter of our true religion and our magnanimous faith.

We aim at deepening our brotherly ties with the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] member countries, particularly, and with brotherly and friendly countries, generally, on firm principles based on equality, mutual respect, and consideration for the rights of neighborliness. The assembly will continue its endeavors to expedite the release of our sons, being held hostages and prisoners in the Iraqi regime's jails, and their return to their families and homeland safely. To that end, the assembly will continue to make concerted efforts to mobilize all the forces that support legitimacy and powers, and that support issues of truth and justice at the level of states, peoples, organizations, bodies, institutions, and associations. [passage omitted]

We are certain that each one of us, whatever our position, will continue to raise the torch of freedom and the banner of justice and dignity and will continue on the path of patriotic action strongly and persistently, however difficult the challenges, however strong the conflicts, and however bitter the sufferings may be, so that the homeland will remain strong and an oasis of peace and security under the leadership of its leader and patron of its renaissance, his highness the amir, with the assistance of his highness the heir apparent. We pray to God to bless the souls of our martyrs and free our prisoners. Peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you.

Shaykh Sa'd Address to Assembly

LD2610153093 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 0627 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Speech by Heir Apparent Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah to the National Assembly—live]

[Excerpts] In the name of God. Thanks be to God. May God's prayers, peace and benediction be upon God's messenger. [passage omitted]

Brothers, speaker, and members of the respected National Assembly. I salute you warmly. I am very happy to meet you today at the opening meeting of the second session of the National Assembly's seventh legislative term—a brotherly meeting that consecrates our constitutional democracy, epitomizes our parliamentary practices, and consolidates our national unity—hoping that this session will be full of achievements, characterized by cooperation and a symbol of the spirit of a united family which used to be, and will always be, the principal character of Kuwaiti society.

The government presented its program of action to your respected assembly during the first session and explained its main orientation. And the government is eager today to explain its stance on a number of issues that have priority in the government's program of action during the next stage.

Respected brother members: One of our main and important issues is the plight of our detained sons and their sufferings at the gallows of the ruling regime in Baghdad. It is a matter that has always been a cause for our sorrow and deep sadness in all our hearts. Serious efforts through all available means will continue to put an end to this human tragedy, which the Iraqi regime has insisted on using and exploiting for political aims in a bid to harm further Kuwait and its people. Efforts will not be spared with fraternal and friendly countries as well as regional and international organizations until their release is secured and all of us are happy once again with their safe return, God willing.

The government has been giving special importance to the problem of economic development. Efforts are being exerted to consolidate the economic infrastructure by finding new financial resources to supplement oil revenues. Competent authorities have been asked to carry

out an adequate survey of the country's economic situation in a bid to face up to the state's budget deficit. However, the living conditions of those on a low income should be borne in mind.

To revive and bolster the national economy and allow it to regain its soundness and enterprise, everyone's cooperation in the matter is essential if steps taken to reach such objectives are to succeed.

Thus, meetings and consultations with economic forces and competent authorities will be undertaken to produce an action plan that will secure for us an economic revival in the country and the consolidation of our national economy.

I must not forget to laud, in this respect, the positive cooperation between the Assembly and the government, one of the main achievements of which was the promulgation of the bill allowing the government to write off a number of debts and how to go about this. We are hoping, furthermore, that the implementation of such a bill will remove a major hurdle that has been jeopardizing our national economy.

The protection of our national investment, its good administration and development, will be one of the government's main policies in a bid to protect public funds and to guarantee the vital role that investment has played and is still playing in the consolidation of our economy and our national strategy. The government will not hesitate to take legal action against anyone who is proven to have betrayed the trust placed in him or who has mismanaged public funds.

The difficulties which the international oil market has been experiencing have impacted on our oil revenues, much the same as for all the oil-exporting countries. The government was able to confront the situation and to come up with an oil policy in harmony with world market conditions. Kuwait returned to the quota system after OPEC member-countries understood Kuwait's stance and the fairness of its request.

Regarding the problem of illegal residents in the country, an important step was taken by issuing a decree on the setting up of a central committee to deal with illegal residents. [passage omitted]

Brothers, respected members: National security, in its internal and external sections, remains absolutely the most preoccupying issue and the most important priority of the government's work.

By God's grace, the demarcation of the borders between Kuwait and Iraq, carried out by a UN special technical committee in light of the bilateral agreements and the internationally sanctioned plans and documents, was completed during the previous session of your honorable assembly. The UN Security Council endorsed the results of the committee's work, and approved the demarcation of the borders in its Resolution 833, issued on 27 May 1993, a matter which completely put an end to the Iraqi regime's allegations and procrastinations over solving this issue, which is decisive for our homeland and people. The government has lodged with your honorable assembly a file containing all the documents in connection with this historic achievement.

The building of the security trench project has started, and work is currently under way to complete its first stage, represented by digging the trench along the extension of the borders between Kuwait and Iraq, hoping that the remaining stages will be completed shortly. The government pays special attention to developing and modernizing our armed forces and raising their capabilities and equipping them with the most modern and best weapons and equipment that enables them to carry out their task in defending the homeland and defending its sovereignty in collaboration with the brothers and friends.

The government is also concerned about raising the capabilities of the security organs and developing their potentials so that they can continue to carry out their task in safeguarding security, safety, stability, and the safety of the citizens. In both fields, training and assuring the qualifications and potential of the human element remain the central point of attention and the center of plans by the state and its security orientations.

Whatever the extent of government efforts to safeguard the security of the homeland and the safety of the citizens, this effort will most certainly be much stronger and more effective and more beneficial if it is strengthened by the cooperation of the citizens and supported by their positive participation.

As establishing security is good and in the interest of all, safeguarding security is a responsiblity that should be shared by all.

Brother members of the Assembly, the government is eager to entrench and develop cooperation and communication with the brothers in the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] and foremost with the fraternal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, out of the conviction in the common destiny and in support of the joint interests in complete cooperation and solidarity.

The government is working toward enabling the sons of these fraternal states to find in their second homeland—Kuwait—all the genuine cooperation and true fraternity. In this connection we are hopeful that the meeting of the GCC leaders scheduled to take place in Riyadh in December will produce effective steps that ensure the beginning of a new upsurge of joint Gulf action in whatever can realize all our hopes and our aspirations.

The government also is working to share the fields of cooperation with all the fraternal and friendly states that stood by our side in our hour of need and which championed our just cause.

Brother members of the assembly: The international arena has recently witnessed an event of extreme importance at the Arab and international levels, i.e. the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. Together with its GCC sister countries, Kuwait welcomed this agreement through the statement of the [GCC] Council of Ministers, which was held in Riyadh last September, as a first step for arriving at a permanent and just solution to the Palestinian issue and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Kuwait also expressed its readiness to contribute toward supporting the peace process through the competent international institutions and bodies.

Brother members of the honorable assembly: Some Arab countries and regimes which, in the Arab Summit in Cairo on 10 August 1990, adopted supportive and biased stances in favor of the Iraqi regime in its treacherous aggression and occupation of the State of Kuwait, have recently shown positive indications toward the State of Kuwait. Kuwait, which was the victim of that unjust aggression and which suffered a lot as a result of the stances of those countries, is capable of overlooking those stances if those countries affirm their support and backing for the Security Council resolutions in connection with the atrocious Iraqi aggression on Kuwait, including Resolution 833 on the demarcation of the Kuwait-Iraqi borders, and if they demand from Iraq the complete implementation of all those resolutions and the release of the Kuwaiti prisoners and detainees.

As for those who still blindly support the Iraqi regime against Kuwait, despite the unravelling of its aggressive reality, proving the falsehood of its allegations, and clarifying its criminal nature, the Kuwaiti people will never forget their offense, and will not overlook their disgraceful stances.

Brother members of the Assembly: The world around us is witnessing slaughters and horrendous events and bloody disturbances that are sweeping many nations in various regions of the world. The days have been coming up with rapid developments that used to be regarded as fiction. They have changed the composition of the international forces and transformed the course of history and redrawn the map of the world in a matter of a number of years.

Ideological doctrines have retreated after standing firm for decades. Empires whose shadow extended far and wide across the world, embracing states and countries have disintegrated. Other states and countries came into being. Attitudes and alliances have changed and new bases, priorities, and concepts emerged to govern relations among states which have been given the new term: The new world order. Where are we in light of all this?

Brothers, we have to absorb these changes and new developments and be aware of their dimensions. We should positively interact with them. We should condition ourselves with them. We should make for our little homeland a course and proper place that agree with our reality in the shadow of this new world order and with whatever safeguards the independence of our homeland and protects our interests and maintains our constants, principles, values, and high ideals.

Honorable brother members, the danger which threatened our dear homeland still exists. The treacherous aggression is biding its time and is lying in wait. It continues to deceive the international community and procrastinate in implementing the Security Council resolutions . It persists in its lies and slanders and refuses to free our sons who are held by it unjustly and aggressively.

I am not exaggerating when I say this, nor am I saying this to intimidate or frighten anyone. But I say this to state the facts and enlighten everyone and out of my duty. The believers cannot be bitten twice [once bitten, twice shy].

Brothers, if we are to seek for our small homeland a secure path in the new world situation and to face the danger and threat of the treacherous enemy, it will be imperative, first of all to, strengthen our home front and consolidate our national unity.

Brothers, chairman, and members of the venerable National Assembly: The march of time does not stop and development is an essential rule in life. Constitutional democracy is the choice that we are satisfied with, so let us do our best to firmly establish it, guide it, and widen its basis so that the march will be forward and development will be for the best.

Let us all cooperate for the sake of protecting our beloved homeland and safeguarding its independence and sovereignty and raising the pillars of its revival so that our beloved Kuwait will remain an oasis of peace and security, a beacon of knowledge, culture and learning, and a country of freedom, human dignity, justice and equality under the auspices of the law, in which amity, faith, fortune and prosperity will prevail.

We ask you, God Almighty, for support and success, and pray that you will bless the souls of our heroic martyrs, expedite the release of our prisoners, and extend your patronage and care to protect our beloved Kuwait in order that it remain free and proud, and help us all to cooperate to serve our beloved homeland under the leadership of the patron of our renaissance, his highness the amir—may God protect him. Peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you.

Iran To Release 11 Detained Kuwaitis

LD2310201693 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1408 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 23 Oct—Sulayman Majid al-Shahin, under secretary of the Foreign Affairs Ministry, today confirmed that there were no obstacles to the release of 11 Kuwaitis who are still being detained by Iran, who claims that they had infiltrated its regional fishing waters.

Al-Shahin told KUNA that he had discussed speeding up the release of these Kuwaiti citizens with Hoseyn Sadeqi, the Iranian ambassador to Kuwait, whom he met earlier today. [passage omitted]

The source, who wished to remain anonymous, stressed that the Iranian authorities had shown a clear understanding of the need to end this matter and ensure the return of the Kuwaitis to Kuwait as soon as possible.

On the other hand, al-Shahin said that the Iranian ambassador had conveyed to him a message from Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati to hand to Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, the first deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister. Al-Shahin said that the message concerned bilateral relations and some of the topics currently placed before the subcommittees of the UN General Assembly, and pointed out that a comment would be made on these issues at a later date.

Saudi Arabia

King Demands Public Apology From 'Arafat

NC2610203993 Paris AFP in English 1552 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Tunis, Oct 26 (AFP)—Saudi Arabia has demanded a public apology from PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat as a condition for the normalisation of ties and resumption of aid to the Palestinians, diplomats said here Tuesday.

King Fahd set the condition in response to mediation efforts by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, who has been trying to patch up relations between the Palestine Liberation Organisation and Gulf states.

If the Egyptian reconciliation efforts succeeded, the PLO leader could visit Saudi Arabia soon, the diplomats said.

Relations were soured by Palestinian support for Iraqi President Saddam Husayn after the invasion of Kuwait in August 1990.

Saudi Arabia, along with other Gulf states, suspended aid to the PLO in retaliation for its pro-Iraqi stance.

The United Arab Emirates and Qatar have shown signs of a rapprochement with the PLO since the signing of the Israeli-PLO peace accord on September 13, but Saudi Arabia, which welcomed the limited autonomy deal, has not yet followed suit.

Yemen

Socialist Party Reveals 'Assassination' Plan

PM2610125093 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 24 Oct 93 pp 1, 4

[Iqbal 'Abdallah report: "Yemeni Socialist Party Insists Scheme To Assassinate Its Leaders Exists"]

[Excerpt] Aden—Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] security sources yesterday reiterated that "the security organ concerned with guarding members of the YSP leadership has uncovered a very carefully planned scheme aimed at physically liquidating a number of YSP leaders and cadres, first and foremost 'Ali Salim al-Bid, deputy chairman of the Presidential Council and secretary general of the YSP, who has been in Aden since 19 August, as well as Salim Salih Muhammad, member of the Presidential Council and assistant secretary general of the YSP, and Brigadier General Haytham Qasim Tahir, defense minister and member of the YSP Political Bureau."

The YSP confirmation of the existence of this scheme comes despite the denial issued by the Interior Ministry in Sanaa.

The YSP sources added that "the criminal scheme is not new. It is an extension of the scheme uncovered in January, which coincided with the series of bombings and political assassinations in the southern governorates, of which elements of the terrorist Jihad organization in Yemen were convicted." The sources pointed out that the "scheme to liquidate some YSP leaders and cadres, uncovered last week, confirms the existence of internal elements seeking to cause tension in the political atmosphere, undermine security and stability, and engage the people in civil infighting to return the reality of partition to Yemen, three and a half years after the establishment of unity."

The sources stressed that the "elements implicated in planning this criminal operation are financed from abroad and do not belong to any party in Yemen." The sources expect "the scheme to extend to include the assassination of leading elements in the General People's Congress (the main party in the coalition) and the Yemeni Reform Grouping (the third party in the coalition), with a view to fomenting sedition among the three coalition parties in order to fragment the coalition and push the country into a political and bloody conflict that would turn Yemen into another Somalia." [passage omitted]

Opposition Grouping Seeks Talks With Coalition

PM2610164493 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 24 Oct 93 p4

[Naji al-Harazi and Hammud Munsir report: "The 'Opposition Grouping' and the 'Salvation Council' Are Trying To Contain the Ruling Coalition Crisis in Yemen"]

[Excerpt] Sanaa—The Yemeni Opposition Grouping, which includes the opposition parties, the tribal chiefs, and a number of independent patriotic figures, has announced the formation of a Higher Advisory Committee headed by Shaykh Sinan Abu-Luhum, Muhammad Radih Sa'id, of the Yemeni Popular Forces

Union Party, has been named as the committee's secretary and Dr. Muhammad 'Abd-al-Malik al-Mutawakkil as its general adviser.

This emerged from a statement issued by the Grouping, of which AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has obtained a copy; it also announced the formation of a working team for dialogue with the coalition parties (the General People's Congress [GPC], the Socialist Party [YSP], and the Yemeni Reform Grouping [YRG]). The team includes 'Umar al-Jawi, secretary general of the Yemeni Unionist Grouping; 'Abd-al-Quddus al-Midwahi, head of the Political Department of the Nasirite Popular Unionist Organization; Shaykh Muhammad 'Abdallah Mahdi, leader of the national parliamentary opposition; and 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Jafri, leader of the Yemeni People's League Party.

The statement says that the opposition grouping's dialogue team "is committed to holding a dialogue with the ruling coalition parties on the basis agreed by the opposition forces and submitted to the coalition." It expresses the opposition's faith "in the people's support to enable it to play its part in sparing the Yemeni homeland the calamities of division and anarchy and in building a state of law and order."

Meanwhile, it was recently announced that a "National Salvation Council" has been formed under the chairmanship of Shaykh Ghalib Nasir al-Ajda', one of the tribal chieftains of the Madhhaj in the Ma'rib Governorate. It includes a large number of figures and tribal chieftains and its aim is "to act to prevent Yemeni division of ranks and to prevent a catastrophe resulting from the acute political crisis within the ruling coalition and the increasing calls for division and secession."

The Yemeni authorities yesterday allowed the distribution of the latest edition of the newspaper SAWT AL-'UMMAL [Voice of the Workers] in Sanaa, having banned it for three days because of a report it published on its first page about "a vast campaign for the assassination of leaders and members of the YSP." In so doing, the Sanaa authorities have reversed their position and stopped using "administrative" methods to check the "informational capabilities" of the parties to the conflict between the GPC and the YSP, members of the tripartite ruling coalition in Yemen.

The paper, considered to be the mouthpiece of the Central Council of the General Federation of Yemeni Trade Unions and edited by some YSP members, had said in its report that "a large-scale assassination campaign has been uncovered targeting YSP members including the party's main leaders, especially YSP Secretary General 'Ali Salim al-Bid; Assistant Secretary General Salim Salih Muhammad; Dr. Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, head of the secretariat and former House of Representatives speaker; Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas; Housing and Planning Minister Muhammad Sa'id 'Abdallah (Muhsin); Aden Governor Salih Munsir al-Sayili; Defense Minister Staff Brigadier General Haytham Qasim Tahir; Transport Minister Salih 'Ubayd Ahmad; and Culture Minister Jarallah 'Umar, all members of the YSP's Political Bureau." [passage omitted]

Oil Firms Asked To Expedite Project

JN2710125493 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] The Higher Council for Economic, Oil, and Investment Affairs met this morning under brother Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, prime minister and chairman of the Council.

The Council continued to debate the activities of some oil firms operating in our country and directed that they expedite the implementation of their prospecting, development, and production projects to create additional revenues for the national economy so as to aid economic structures in general.

The Council also reviewed a working paper submitted by the Ministerial Committee headed by the brother minister of planning and development on proposals to remedy economic and financial problems. The Ministerial Committee comprises as members the finance minister and the Central Bank governor.

The Council will continue to discuss these issues in a session to be held next week. Afterward, it will submit its proposals to the Council of Ministers and the Presidential Council in order to unify views with regard to remedying economic issues.

Arab, Foreign Workers' Delegations Protest Embargo

JN2510160993 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] The Arab and foreign workers' delegations currently visiting Baghdad to attend meetings of the 10th Conference of the General Federation of Trade Unions have urged the United Nations to immediately work to lift the unfair embargo imposed on Iraq, to bring the agonies of its people to an end, and to refrain from using human tragedies as a means to achieve the political aims of certain states.

In a protest march staged in Baghdad today, the delegations reaffirmed their full conviction that the United Nations is primarily responsible for the catastrophes and crises plaguing Iraq. Consequently, the delegations maintained, the United Nations is committing gross violations of international law and human values, and acting against the purposes for which it was established in the first place.

The delegations expressed their unwavering solidarity with the Iraqi people, who have been suffering due to the continued enforcement of the criminal economic sanctions, which have caused the death of thousands of sick people and children, thanks to medicine and food shortages in Iraq.

The marchers delivered a protest memorandum to this effect to the UN mission in Baghdad, addressed to UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali. In the memorandum, the marchers expressed their regret and sadness, because the world body and its institutions are being used as tools to subject the Iraqi people, who played a key role in the history of human civilization, to the plagues of famine, sickness, and death. The institutions established to promote human rights, they argued, are being used to exterminate peoples and deny them access to their most basic requirements of food and medicine.

Minister Meets Philippines Delegation

JN2510195393 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] Labor and Social Affairs Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim has urged world parliaments to oppose the double standards employed by the United States and expose the false claims it is advancing to justify its aggressive policy against Iraq and world peoples.

During a meeting today with (Omughdo Yonduk), vice chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Philippine House of Representatives, and a delegation accompanying him, Jasim added that the continuation of the unfair embargo imposed on our proud people is a violation of all human concepts and values as well as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

For his part, (Omughdu Yonduk) said that the delegation will work, upon its return home, to explain the sufferings of the Iraqi people due to the embargo and refute the allegations promoted by the West and its deceptive media against Iraq. It will also work, he added, to expose the evil purposes of the 30-state aggression against Iraq, and the aggressive motives for the perpetuation of the embargo on its militant people.

Iran Seen Using PKK To Undermine Kurdish Autonomy

PM2610120993 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 23 Oct 93 p 6

['Adnan Husayn report: "Iraqi Kurds Accuse Kurdish Workers Party Of Launching Military Operations Against 'Peshmerga'"]

[Excerpts] London—Iraqi Kurdish officials stress that their leadership has irrefutable evidence that Iran is providing arms and money to the separatist Turkish Kurdish Workers Party [PKK] and encouraging it to work from inside Iraqi Kurdistan to undermine conditions there and to force Turkey to stop the facilities it is providing to Iraqi Kurds, who established their own autonomy 18 months ago. The Iranians are concerned that the success and stability of this autonomy might lead to Iranian Kurds being instigated against the central government in Tehran.

These officials say that Iran is providing military and financial aid to the PKK "directly or via Iraqi Kurdish groups."

According to one of these officials, Tehran is sending arms and money to the PKK via Iraqi Kurdistan through smugglers or the Kurdish Islamic movements which Iran helped to establish and is financing and supplying with arms.

This official believes that Iran is using the PKK to continue and escalate the armed Kurdish-Turkish dispute with a view to weakening Turkey's position in the undeclared struggle between Tehran and and Ankara over influence in the former Soviet Caucasus and Central Asian republics.

Iran's aim behind encouraging the PKK to conduct armed struggle from inside Iraqi Kurdistan is also to expand the Kurdish-Turkish conflict to include Iraqi Kurdistan "in the hope that this will lead to increasing economic difficulties, security conditions in Iraqi Kurdistan being undermined, and the Turks being forced to reconsider the facilities they are providing to Iraqi Kurds." And Turkey is at present the only outlet for the economic and humanitarian aid which Iraqi Kurds receive from abroad after the comprehensive economic blockade imposed by Baghdad on the Kurdistan region in October 1991 following the the failure of the negotiations between it and the Iraqi Kurdistan Front.

Meanwhile, sources from the Iraqi Democratic Party of Kurdistan, led by Mas'ud Barzani, have stressed that the

"government" of Iraqi Kurdistan is determined to prevent the PKK from using Iraqi Kurdish territory to launch its military operations against Turkey.

An official from the party's office in London has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the the statement issued by the government of the region last week can be considered "a final warning for that party to comply with the agreement it signed in the past with the government and the Kurdistan Front."

He added that the PKK "has violated the agreements several times over recent months and carried out actions which led to the fall of victims among Iraqi Kurds and to moving current military operations inside Turkey to Iraqi Kurdistan, thus threatening the local government experiment and the democratic process in Iraqi Kurdistan."

The Kurdish official pointed out that on 3 July an armed group from the PKK surrounded a position for the Iraqi Kurdish peshmerga forces in the Mirkah Shish [as transliterated] area near Zakho and confiscated their weapons. [passage omitted]

The Kurdish official said that the PKK "has over the past two months intensified its military presence in the Iraqi Kurdish areas adjacent to Turkey in violation of its agreements with the government of Kurdistan." [passage omitted]

DPK Statement Denies Fighting PKK in Turkey

JN2410182093 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1645 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] A statement from a spokesman for the united Democratic Party of Kurdistan [DPK]:

On 14 October, the Kurdish Workers Party [PKK] issued a leaflet full of demagogy, lies, and fabrications against the Kurdistan government and the united DPK. We deem it necessary to state that the Kurdistan government closed PKK offices because of its actions which contradict laws and agreements with the Kurdistan government. The major PKK propaganda is that the united DPK's peshmergas fought alongside the Turkish Army in (Botan) inside Turkey against PKK members.

Another leaflet issued by the PKK in Germany said that a number of our party's peshmergas were martyred. We are not involving ourselves in vituperations with the PKK because that is what they want. However, we reaffirm that not one of our peshmerga fighters fought in the Turkish territories with the Turkish Army or on his own.

The PKK knows very well that only one of our peshmerga fighters has been martyred and that was Fa'iq Argushi, the hero of the September and (Gulan) revolutions. This hero was martyred by the PKK in a cowardly operation between the villages of (Nairuz) and (Shibeh) in the liberated territories of Iraqi Kurdistan. Our party has never wasted the blood of its martyrs in vain.

It is clear that through these actions and encroachment on the masses of the border villages with its demagogy, the PKK wants to deviate from the agreement with the Kurdistan government. In no way did our party want war with anyone. However, when the PKK or anyone else thinks of fighting our party, let them know well that they are butting their heads against the lofty mountains of Kurdistan and they will be responsible for the consequences.

Justice Minister Leaves for Cairo Meetings

JN2610120293 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1050 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 26 Oct (INA)—Justice Minister Shabib Lazim al-Maliki left for Cairo today to attend the meetings of the Arab justice ministers' council due to begin at Arab League headquarters in Cairo on Thursday. [passage omitted]

Soccer Team Exposed to U.S.-Backed 'Developments'

JN2610211493 Baghdad Voice of Youth in Arabic 2100 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Dear listeners: We have just received information from Doha on important and serious developments to which our national soccer team is being exposed through U.S. interference. We are now trying to contact our sport team in Qatar in order to learn about the details of these developments.

We would like to inform our listeners that our transmission will continue until a late hour. In addition, the communications center affiliated with the Youth Radio and Television will continue its work until a late hour, God willing.

Player Banned From Game Against Japan

JN2610214893

[Editorial Report] Baghdad Voice of Youth in Arabic at 2120 GMT on 26 October interrupts its programs to carry the following announcement:

"Dear listeners: We now go on a linkup with the Television of Youth from Dar al-Salam."

Immediately afterwards, an unidentified announcer reports that a telex was received from Zurich to the effect that Iraqi team player Habib Ja'far will be banned from playing against Japan. The announcer then notes that a telephone link was secured with Doha, and speaks with Asil Sabrah, an Iraqi team official, currently in Doha, to ask him about the details. Sabrah says the Iraqi team in Doha was informed almost an hour ago by FIFA that Habib Ja'far will be banned from playing in the Iraqi team's next match against Japan, despite the fact that Ja'far has already been punished for his expulsion from

the match against Iran by banning him from playing in the game against Saudi Arabia.

At 2138 GMT, the announcer speaks on the phone with Habib Ja'far to ask about his feelings about the decision. The announcer comments that the decision is part of a conspiracy hatched against the Iraqi team. At 2142 GMT, the announcer says that citizens can phone in to voice their views on this decision.

Dinar Reported To Hit New Low Against Dollar

NC2610160493 Paris AFP in English 1354 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Baghdad, Oct 26 (AFP)—The value of the Iraqi dinar dropped to an all-time low of 104 to the dollar on the black market here Tuesday [26 October].

The value of the dollar against the dinar has increased nearly 15-fold since the end of the Gulf war in February 1991.

At the official rate, which remained unchanged after the war, the dinar is worth 3.2 dollars.

One moneychanger said the latest fall in the dinar's value, down from 100 to the dollar on Monday, was due to the suspension of talks between Baghdad and the United Nations on U.N.-supervised exports of Iraqi oil.

No progress was made at the last round of talks in New York in early October on the sale of up to 1.6 billion dollars' worth of Iraqi oil. No date has been set for further talks.

UN Informed of 11-18 Oct U.S. Airspace 'Violations'

JN2110144993 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1100 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Text] New York, 21 Oct (INA)—Iraq has informed the United Nations of U.S. aircraft violations of its airspace for provocation and surveillance purposes.

In a letter to UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali, Iraq's permanent UN representative said the U.S. aircraft carried out 474 hostile air sorties between 11-18 October.

Iraq's representative requested this letter be distributed to member states.

19-24 Air Activity Protested

JN2710122293 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0900 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] New York, 27 Oct (INA)—Iraq has lodged a protest with the United Nations over violations of the Iraqi airspace conducted by U.S. aircraft for purposes of surveillance and harassment.

In a protest memorandum addressed to UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali, the Iraqi permanent representative to the United Nations indicated that U.S. aircraft conducted 345 air sorties over northern and southern Iraq during period 19-24 October.

The Iraqi delegate pointed out that a U.S. TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft violated the Iraqi airspace on Sunday [24 October] over al-Basrah, Artawi, al-Samawah, al-Nasiriyah, al-Rifa'i, and Julaybah. Afterward, the delegated added, the aircraft headed for Saudi Arabia.

Arab League Informed of 19-21 Oct 'Violations'

JN2410150893 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 24 Oct (INA)—Iraq has informed the Arab League that the Saudi and Kuwaiti rulers have continued to provide U.S., British, and French aircraft with facilities to violate Iraqi airspace, noting that this seriously jeopardizes Iraq's security, sovereignty, and national unity.

In a letter to Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, the Iraqi permanent representative to the Arab League said that these aircraft continued on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 19-21 October, to violate Iraqi airspace, flying from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. During this period, they conducted 128 hostile air sorties over Iraqi territory.

The Iraqi permanent representative to the Arab League requested that this letter, to which a list detailing these airspace violations was attached, be circulated among Arab League members.

22-23 Oct 'Violations' Reported

JN2610120593 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0930 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 26 Oct (INA)—Iraq has informed the Arab League of the continued facilities offered by the rulers of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait to U.S., British, and French aircraft, which are violating Iraqi airspace. It noted that these aircraft take off from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and pose a serious threat to Iraq's security and sovereignty.

In a letter to Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid yesterday, Iraq's permanent Arab League representative said that on 22 and 23 October, these aircraft continued to violate Iraq's airspace, taking off from these bases, conducting 100 aggressive sorties.

The Iraqi representative attached a list detailing the violations and asked that the letter be circulated to Arab League member states to acquaint themselves with these regrettable facts.

Radio Reports 617 Prisoners Released by IDF

TA2610185393 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1700 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] A short time ago it was publicized that 617 security prisoners were released yesterday from military and Prison Service detention facilities. Our military affairs correspondent Netan'el Semrik reports:

Altogether 12 female prisoners were released yesterday, as well as 44 ill prisoners; seven security prisoners over the age of 50; and the rest young security prisoners aged 18 and under. The IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] Southern Command released 315 prisoners, while 302 were released from the Central Command. Approximately 20 more names of prisoners tried by Israeli courts were forwarded to the Justice Ministry for amnesty from President Weizman.

The defense establishment is preparing for the release of more prisoners, as stipulated by political decisions and the Taba talks.

Defense Establishment Opposes Deportees' Return

TA2710122993 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 27 Oct 93 pp A1, A10

[Report by Gay Bekhor and Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Over the last few days defense establishment figures have proposed not returning the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad deportees who are slated to return from south Lebanon on 17 December. So far the proposals are merely being aired in the Defense Ministry's corridors, while no substantial proposal on this issue has been submitted to Prime Minister Rabin. Various defense establishment sources raised this proposal in the wake of the kidnapping and murder of the two Israeli soldiers in Gaza last Sunday [24 October].

'Oded Ben-'Ami, the defense minister's media adviser, yesterday firmly denied that any proposal on this issue was submitted to Rabin. According to him it is inconceivable that such a proposal be submitted to Rabin, because the prime minister guaranteed to Secretary of State Christopher to return the deportees from south Lebanon on schedule, and "Rabin always keeps his word." Approximately 200 deportees remain in the Marj al-Zuhur encampment at the present time.

Rabin on Prisoner Release, Peace Process

TA2610151493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1105 GMT 26 Oct 93

[News conference by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in Tel Aviv's Hatiqva Quarter—live; broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Rabin]...in order to prevent wars. In order to prevent the loss of lives. In order to prevent the death of soldiers. We shall continue to pursue these goals, no matter how many lies they spread about us, or what baseless, totally false, stories they make up. We are waging a dual struggle: improving our society and economy, helping the deprived, promoting education, and making peace while maintaining security. That is what the residents of Tel Aviv should vote for. For Mr. Qahalani [the Labor party candidate for Tel Aviv mayor], because he is the best choice for mayor and for the promotion of peace.

[Qol Yisra'el correspondent Ron Nesi'el] Mr. Prime Minister, what is your reaction to the noisy reception you received here in the neighborhood. Do you feel that the public is showing some understanding for the release of the Palestinian prisoners?

[Rabin] Look, I am convinced that there is widespread public support for the peace process. This process has some unpleasant aspects. This is but one of the examples. We are moving toward peace with people who have made a commitment—which they have kept so far—to employ neither terrorism nor violence against Israelis. As part of this move, we also seek to resolve the problems of prisoners and detainees who have not spilt any blood, who were not involved in violent attacks, and who do not belong to those terrorist organizations which are continuing their attacks. Of course, we must exert all efforts on behalf of the Israeli soldiers who have been missing since the battle of al-Sultan Ya'qub 11 years ago. I could ask a question here: Why were Syrian soldiers repatriated at the end of the Lebanon War without receiving anything in return? We did not act in this way at the end of the 1967 war, when we brought back the prisoners of the Lavon Affair [when an Israeli spy ring was arrested in Egypt in 1954]. Egyptian Jews who were imprisoned since 1954. We waited. We did not exchange prisoners. We said that we would not release 5,000 Egyptian POW's until these prisoners were also let go. We had 12 IDF [Israel Defense Forces] POW's, but we insisted that the prisoners of the Lavon Affair of 1954, Egyptian Jews working on behalf of the State of Israel-...[changes thought]. Some of them were hanged, and we could not bring them back alive; however, we brought back to Israel those that still survived after 12 years of imprisonment, although it delayed the repatriation of the Egyptian soldiers and of our own POW's. Those who did not follow this example in 1982 or 1983 should refrain from complaining about the past, because today matters are much more difficult. Nevertheless, we shall continue to do our best to bring them back home.

[Nes'iel] Was the continued release of Palestinian prisoners made conditional on Israel receiving information on the fate of those missing since the battle of al-Sultan Ya'aqub?

[Rabin] These matters are being discussed in parallel. On some issues, it is better not to get into details. We have learned that premature media exposure can occasionally be detrimental. We have always said, and continue to say, that at this stage agreement was reached on a specific number. The remainder will be within the

framework of progress in the negotiations on the implementation of the agreement of principles in all its aspects, according to our interpretation. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1200 GMT on 26 October reports that "Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that Israel would not return to the borders which existed prior to the 1967 war. Israel would not defend itself from a distance of 20 or 30 kilometers away from Netanya, but rather from along the Jordan River, which was Israel's defense line. Speaking before a delegation of the Jewish National Fund's young leadership which is currently visiting the country, Rabin said that he preferred Israel to remain a Jewish state not only in name but also from the demographic aspect."]

Peres on Talks With Palestinians, Jordan

TA2610152393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, speaking this morning in Jerusalem, declared it is impossible for Israel to silence the guns of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] in the Gaza Strip, because it is impossible to be a soldier or a policeman there. Over to reporter Dick Winter:

[Begin recording] [Winter] Speaking before the Board of Governors of the Jewish Agency, it was typical visionary speech by Shim'on Peres, but this time with some cold water thrown in. Israel was never really in charge of the Gaza Strip, says Peres. We are not the lords of Gaza, but its policemen, and as such are in an impossible situation:

[Peres] How can we really silence the guns of Hamas, when whenever an Israeli soldier is defending his life in Gaza is being accused of violating human rights, because he is Israeli and he is Arab. How can we, on the other hand, defend the lives of the unarmed majority in Gaza, when every defense offered by us will be taken in their eyes as patronizing their destiny? Let's be serious, we cannot make ourselves victims of bluffs.

[Winter] When Shim'on Peres turned to his favorite topic, the economic development of the Middle East, amidst all the shining horizons was once again a cold look at reality. Who is today financially supporting the Palestinians in the territories more than any other country, more than the rich Arab states? Israel is, Peres said:

[Peres] And you know, the United States was begging Saudi Arabia to provide $10 million to help the Palestinians, and Saudi Arabia refused. They said those guys supported Iraq, we won't give them a penny. And what is $10 million for the Saudis?

[Winter] But for all the cold water, it was still an optimistic Shim'on Peres. As far as the continuing anti-Israeli declarations coming from the Palestinians and the Arab world are concerned, Peres said that today declarations are falling behind the developments on the ground. I am not presenting a vision, said Peres, but a reality. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1200 GMT on 26 October adds: "Foreign Minister Peres says talks with Jordan are at a stage of being resumed, and that a tripartite American, Jordanian, and Israeli committee will be convened in the next few days to deal with this issue. Prior to addressing the Jewish Agency's Board of Governors, Mr. Peres told our correspondent that the Washington talks might be resumed in one month."]

Peres Comments on Peace Talks, Economic Ties

NC2610144393 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 23 Oct 93 p 5

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Amin Muhammad Amin in Jerusalem; date not given]

[Text] Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has said that Jerusalem represents a major problem in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations. This is why, he added, discussion of this issue has been postponed until the second stage of negotiations, which will begin two and a half years after the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles.

Interviewed by AL-AHRAM in his office at the Israeli Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem, Peres said it was possible for the talks that have already started in Cairo and Taba—in appreciation of Egypt's and President Husni Mubarak's pioneering role in the peace process—to tackle all issues of concern to the Palestinians and the Israelis, but the two sides preferred to begin with easier issues on which they could reach agreement. Therefore, we began with Gaza and Jericho and not with Jerusalem, Peres said.

He added: Every problem has movable as well as immovable parts. We opted to start with the parts that could be moved by negotiations. We sought to pave the way for confidence building measures. Through the work of the current committees, which will meet for two months before the withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho and the transfer of power to a Palestinian administration over the next four months, we are trying hard to achieve something better than what we promised our neighbors, so that they will feel comfortable. We believe that any problem can be solved through negotiations and without struggle.

[Amin] But even though the Israeli Knesset and the PLO Central Council approved the agreement, no less than 30 percent of the Palestinians and the Israelis oppose it. The Palestinian opponents call for regaining all of Palestine, from the Mediterranean to the River Jordan, and the Israeli opponents call for control of the entire land of Israel.

[Peres] We base our policies on the decisions of the majority, not the minority. It is difficult to get everybody

to agree. But it is important that we have started serious moves toward peace. The rejectionists will gradually join us.

[Amin] On the other hand, Israeli withdrawal from the Golan remains one of the major obstacles to peace in the region.

[Peres] Syria is still adopting hardline positions that are difficult to explain. The Syrians still refuse to meet with us or open new or secret channels for contacts.

I wonder why they did not join President al-Sadat in his peace initiative 15 years ago. President al-Sadat came to Jerusalem and managed to achieve peace. But Syria wants peace without peace. It wants peace and land without an exchange of embassies and without open borders. What does this mean? When we discuss security and the disarmament of the Golan, they demand the disarmament of the Galilee. Is there any peace in this? We are ready to remove all the weapons of mass destruction on the condition that full peace and security are achieved.

[Amin] But most statements by Israeli officials indicate that there will be an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan in the near future.

[Peres] We have indeed agreed to an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan, but we have not determined the size of that withdrawal. We specifically said that the size of the withdrawal will depend on the nature of the peace and the measures needed to achieve safety and peace for all.

[Amin] What about the agenda with Jordan?

[Peres] There have been no problems with Jordan, particularly since we reached an agreement with the Palestinians. But Israeli-Palestinian-Jordanian relations are like a triangle. Hence, a true settlement should be in the collective interest of all three parties. First, we need economic support for the three parties. A political agreement involving the three states can come later.

Priorities in the coming stage can be summed up as follows:

1. To complete the implementation of the Israeli-Palestinian agreement's provisions;

2. To begin talks with Jordan and embark on implementation; and,

3. To try to begin talks to establish peace with Syria when the Syrians feel that they are ready for it.

[Amin] What about an Israeli withdrawal from south Lebanon, particularly since Israel has declared that it has no ambitions in the Lebanese territories?

[Peres] I do not think that we can resolve the Lebanese problem before we settle the issue of negotiations with Syria.

[Amin] You are calling for a Middle East Marshal Plan to develop the region's economic resources through foreign assistance.

[Peres] We have already launched contacts and started a campaign. We went to the countries of the North and Europe seeking financial support for the plan. Right now, the issue is not collecting funds; it is the diversity of the region's economic systems and strategies.

For instance, the Asian group is going through a significant stage. Its economic position is excellent. Why? Not because of the funds they collected or had, but because of the unique policies and strategies they developed. Therefore, when I say that the region's countries should change their strategies, I mean that they should try to limit negative spending on weapons and wars, which have cost, and still cost, us a lot. In this region, we have spent more than $50 billion on wars and arms. Why don't we allocate $20 billion to development? We have to start by making plans for regional tourism as an important and vital source of income. In the meantime, we can declare war against desertification and turn deserts into green areas by using modern irrigation systems. We should also seek alternative sources of energy and water to rebuild the Middle East.

We in Israel do not seek control of the Middle East. Neither did we relinquish land to make economic gains.

We reiterate that there are new problems that can only be solved if they are studied realistically to find practical solutions.

We see the need to open the borders between the region's countries, for waters to flow along their natural courses, and for new cities to be built. All this should happen within the context of a peace economy not one of war. This is what we want. The most important issue in the Middle East in future will not be who owns a plot of land, but rather the work necessary to raise the living standards of the region's nations. We are seeking to create a Middle East with a high living standard.

Obviously the higher a nation's living standard is, the less violence and terrorism there is. The Middle East has to decide for itself whether it should continue in poverty and backwardness or seek prosperity. As I said, this requires very serious work and sincere intentions.

[Amin] What are the borders of this Middle Eastern economic belt that you are calling for? Does it include Iran, Turkey, and the Arab Gulf states, in addition to the countries that border Israel and the Arab Maghreb countries?

[Peres] We must first begin with Israel's cooperation with the Arab League's 22 member states. Turkey, which has good ties with Egypt, can join us. Eritrea and, perhaps, Ethiopia may also join.

As for Iran, it wants to undermine everything. It is seeking to destroy the Middle East; thus its participation would be difficult, at least for now.

Therefore, we will reciprocate Iran's support for Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the extremist movements by working to raise the living standards of the region's nations so that people's support for these movements will diminish and, in turn, their influence and number will decrease.

[Amin] When you visit the occupied Arab land in Gaza and Jericho, you notice that construction and development have not reached these areas and that there is a great gap between utilities and services in the Israeli areas and Gaza and Jericho. Why has Israel left these areas with such low-level services?

[Peres] Gaza is an old city, dating back more than 7,000 years. It has not witnessed any genuine prosperity throughout its history. Everyone who came to the Middle East contributed to its destruction. Besides, it is a city of refugees and bedouins. The West Bank residents feel they are more developed than the Gaza inhabitants.

We tried to move part of Gaza's population to the West Bank, but they refused, even though it is a crowded city. Its area is limited to 360 square km, on which more than 800,000 people live, and the population is growing at a rate of 35,000. [sentence as published] Despite this, we believe that, if run and ruled well, Gaza could become an important city in the region and turn into the Singapore of the Middle East.

[Amin] If this is your opinion of Gaza, why didn't you help turn it into the Singapore of the region during the occupation, instead allowing it to remain poor and maintaining its poor services?

[Peres] The truth is that everyone rejected Gaza. The Palestinians rejected it first, and we also refused to annex Gaza. The problem is that Gaza has been run by untrained hands, but now funds will be allocated to develop it.

[Amin] Palestinian funds?

[Peres] The Palestinians do not pay money. The funds are from foreign sources.

[Amin] The Palestinians in the Gaza Strip are demanding $5 billion to reconstruct Gaza's basic structures.

[Peres] So far, we have collected $2 billion for them, but the important point is that work should begin.

[Amin] What about Jericho?

[Peres] Jericho faces the same problems as Gaza, but on a smaller scale. Jericho could become a center for international tourism. It is an extraordinary region and a beautiful winter resort. It also has excellent agricultural produce.

[Amin] What is your view on developing the region's economies?

[Peres] As I said earlier, less should be spent on arms and destruction. We are increasing in number, and the land is getting tighter and tighter. We need to develop the desert and overcome desertification.

We must conquer the desert before it conquers us. In Israel, over the last 25 years, we have increased our agricultural production by 220 percent without having vast land or abundant water. About 95 percent of this increase is the result of using science, modern technology, and sound planning.

With regard to industry, markets are more important than countries. Markets have no borders. They are based on competition, not borders. This means that the Middle East market's doors should be open to its products.

[Amin] What about future relations between the Palestinians and the Israelis?

[Peres] It is not our duty to choose the Palestinian leaders and presidents. It is also not our role to jail the dissidents among them. It is the job of the Palestinians to elect their leaders. We now see that 'Arafat is acceptable to them.

[Amin] The right of repatriation for the refugees is one of the important problems facing the agreement. What about their future?

[Peres] We now have a committee to discuss the refugee issue, but the problem is that there is a large number of refugees who have lived their whole lives in other countries and have settled there. Would it be easy for them to return? I do not think so.

[Amin] You were the one who supervised the secret negotiations with the PLO in Oslo. So far, not much has been revealed about the scope of these negotiations. Could you tell us about some aspects?

[Peres] You, as a journalist, are looking for secrets, and I, as a politician, have to keep secrets. If we want the negotiations to succeed, they must take place in a calm atmosphere. If you negotiate in public, before the masses, you will not be able to influence the other party. You will be preoccupied with influencing your own people and those you represent. At some point, you might hit a dead end.

In my opinion, negotiations must take place without microphones and newspapers.

[Amin] What technology could Israel offer?

[Peres] There are various areas, starting with agricultural superiority in the production of fruits, vegetables, poultry, fish, etc.; providing a secure food supply for the countries in the region; and good exports. This technology also extends to many other areas, such as building bridges and airports and modernizing the administration and information systems through the use of modern technology.

[Amin] Some reports talk about secret contacts with a number of Arab countries.

[Peres] I met with the Qatari foreign minister on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly meetings in New York. If there were other secret meetings, they must remain secret. We hope that Arab embassies will soon be open in Israel, especially after the Palestinian problem is solved.

[Amin] Israel is demanding that the Arab boycott end before they will return all the occupied Arab territories. Why?

[Peres] The Arab boycott has affected the Arabs, too. Everyone was punished. Israel, however, has a modern economy. While some states in the region that are experiencing low economic standards insist on keeping the boycott, Israel's economy continues to develop.

The Arab politicians must realize this fact and accept the peace movement with open hearts and minds.

[Amin] Water is one of the most important issues and an area of future conflict in the region.

[Peres] A dispute could erupt over water. But we hope that this will not happen, because we cannot manufacture water. We must work in three directions: We must cultivate the land, extract salt from the sea and exploit it, and end the wave of violence in the region so that we can live in peace. If we succeed, we will have a new Middle East.

[Amin] But Israel is illegally taking Arab water.

[Peres] Does water have a nationality? If rainwater crosses the border, should it pay the customs fees that are usually imposed on travel between states?

Water is not a political issue. This means that instead of fighting over water, we must all work to find new water resources.

[Amin] What about the peace process with Egypt? Some people in Israel call it the cold peace?

[Peres] This could be the case, but we are currently participating in joint economic projects. This requires us to understand the true concept of peace. Egypt must play an extremely important role in promoting and maintaining peace in the region. Our negotiations in Cairo are the best example of this.

To conclude this interview, please convey my greetings to President Mubarak and to the Egyptian people. I am very pleased about President Mubarak's reelection to a third term. He has succeeded in developing Egypt's economy and building great political bridges in the region.

Labor Federation Leader Demands $27 Billion

TA2710125193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] The Palestinians are demanding $27 billion in return for the taxes that Israel has levied on the workers in the territories since the Six-Day War. This demand was raised by Haydar Ibrahim, president of the Palestinian Labor Federation, in a meeting with Histadrut Secretary General Hayim Haberfeld. Our correspondent Ilan Lazarovich reports that Ibrahim and Haberfeld are participating in a convention of the Trade Unions umbrella organization. The Palestinian representative, who is a senior PLO-Tunis official, publicly denounced violence and terrorism, and noted that he was doing so on behalf of Yasir 'Arafat.

Savir Denies Deliberate Stall in Syria Talks

TA2610211893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2100 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir denies repeated reports that Israel is interested in preventing the negotiations with the Syrians from making progress. In a news conference in Jerusalem this evening, Savir said that if Damascus presents Israel with a reasonable definition of the nature of peace, negotiations with it could seriously make progress. He added that very little progress was made in the Washington talks, but Syria keeps avoiding suggestions to move the talks somewhere else or to change their format. This was reported by our correspondent Jack Katzenell.

'Senior Official' Affirms Interest in Syria Talks

NC2610200593 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Israel today affirmed that it is giving top priority to the implementation of the self-rule agreement with the Palestinians but that this will not prevent it from resuming negotiations with Syria and Lebanon.

This came in response to THE JERUSALEM POST's report that Yitzhaq Rabin informed President al-Asad in a message conveyed by U.S. coordinator Dennis Ross that negotiations over the Golan will be held after the Palestinian self-rule agreement is implemented. Mahir Shalabi gives the details in this report:

[Begin recording] The Israeli English-language newspaper THE JERUSALEM POST reported today that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin told Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad that negotiations over the Syrian Golan Heights, which Israel occupied in 1967 and annexed in 1981, will be held after the Israeli-Palestinian accord is implemented. Citing a senior official in the Israeli prime minister's office, the paper added that Rabin sent the message to Damascus last week through Dennis Ross, the U.S. coordinator for the Middle East peace process.

In a telephone call to the Israeli prime minister's office, we were told that Israel is considers the implementation of the transitional agreement with the PLO its top priority, but, the office said, this does not weaken our desire to reach peace treaties with Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan.

In a related story, Rabin announced today that Israel will not return to the pre-1967 borders and that Jerusalem will remain Israel's unified capital. [end recording]

Rabin: Germany Conveyed Humanitarian Requests to Iran

TA2610114493 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 26 Oct 93 p 6

[Report by Eddie Gal]

[Excerpt] The German intelligence services have recently conveyed Israel's humanitarian requests to the Iranian intelligence services, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin disclosed yesterday.

During a tour of Nahariyya, Rabin was asked about the tightening of relations between the German and Iranian intelligence services. "I suggest that you not be taken in by everything you read in the papers," the prime minister said. "Germany was one of the West European countries that accepted Israel's humanitarian requests with regard to Iran," he added. [passage omitted]

Officials Leave for Turkey for High-Level Talks

TA2610120493 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 26 Oct 93 p 1

[Report by the political correspondent in Jerusalem]

[Text] A delegation of senior Foreign Ministry officials, headed by Deputy Director General Eytan Bentzur and by Yehuda Milo, director of the Europe 1 Division, left for Turkey yesterday to confer with high-level officials. The visit follows Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' decision to brief governments about the agreement with the PLO.

The members of the delegation will also raise the issue of Turkish aid to the Palestinians and will prepare the Turkish foreign minister's upcoming visit to Israel next month.

There has recently been an improvement in relations between Turkey and Israel.

Fugitive Renounces Terrorism, Gains Release

TA2710060093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] In the Gaza Strip, security forces last night released a man on the wanted list just a few hours after he was captured. 'Ali Husayn Zinu was released after he vowed to renounce terrorism. The military governor of the strip, Brigadier General Yom-Tov Sami', says the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has already called off the hunt for some of the people on the wanted list. None of them have returned to their homes yet. Sami' said perhaps Zinu's release will encourage other wanted terrorists to put down their weapons and return to their homes.

PFLP Fugitive Apprehended by Security Forces

TA2710114393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] A Border Police unit this morning apprehended Hasan Ibrahim al-Hammuz, a 30-year-old Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] fugitive in the al-Fawwar refugee camp near Hebron. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the Border Police unit ambushed the fugitive near his home in the refugee camp and apprehended him. The suspect, who has been on the wanted list for about a year, was detained and taken in for interrogation.

Bomb Dismantled Near West Bank Settlement

TA2710092193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] An explosive charge was discovered last night near the Sheqef settlement south of the Hebron Hills. A border police bomb disposal expert safely dismantled the bomb. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the bomb was made out of a dud and a firing device.

Coalition Leader Sees Knesset Elections 'Next Year'

TA2610115193 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 26 Oct 93 p 7

[Report by Oren Kohen]

[Excerpt] Labor Knesset Member Eli Dayan, chairman of the coalition executive, yesterday told HADASHOT that he believes the next Knesset elections will be brought forward and will be held next year.

According to Dayan, his assessment is based on talks with prominent Labor leaders and with coalition partners. He noted that in view of the complicated situation in the coalition, it is almost certain that the next elections will not be held as scheduled.

Dayan reiterated his assessment about early elections yesterday, in a meeting of Labor's Knesset faction with the prime minister. He noted that touring the country as part of the municipal election campaign, he and his colleagues have been encountering criticism of the government's performance regarding the rise in poverty, the plight of citizens laden with high-interest mortgages, and so on. As a result of his assessment that the elections will be held next year, he believes the government should gird its loins and find solutions as soon as possible, before the tough election campaign gets under way. [passage omitted]

Tzomet's Eytan Declares Prime Minister Candidacy

TA2610115393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Tzomet party leader Refa'el Eytan has announced he will be a candidate for prime minister in the next, direct elections. At a press conference this morning in Tel Aviv, Eytan presented a new platform to counter the government's peace initiatives. Dani Gur-Arye reports.

[Begin recording] [Gur-Arye] Refa'el Eytan wants to be prime minister. The former chief of staff and agriculture minister announced this morning that he, more than any other figure, can unite the nationalist camp. Eytan said the move does not reflect any personal animosity toward Binyamin Netanyahu, only the belief that he, Eytan, would make a better prime minister. This is Tzomet spokesman Naftali Yaniv:

[Yaniv] We are representing a party. We are not representing the right wing. We have a few parties in the right wing. We have the Likud party, we have Tzomet, we have Moledet, and so on. What we and Refa'el Eytan are doing is that he represents his party and he thinks that his party and his ideas can gain a majority in the right wing and perhaps to be prime minister.

[Gur-Arye] As a first step, Eytan presented reporters this morning with Eytan's 10 points, Tzomet's new political platform. The document begins with a commitment to honor any agreement signed by previous governments. It also calls for municipal autonomy for Palestinians in the territories and nothing more.

Eytan says in the document that Iran is the most important country in the region today. He says he will address Iranian President Rafsanjani directly, calling on him to make peace with Israel and the West.

The platform and Eytan's decision to be a candidate reflect the major difference between Tzomet and the Likud. Just last week, the Likud Central Committee spent eight grueling hours considering alternatives to the government's peace plan. Eytan simply formulated his 10 points. [end recording]

Knesset Passes First Reading of Budget Law

TA2710125393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Excerpt] The Knesset passed the first reading of the budget law. Fifty-nine Knesset members [MK's] voted in favor of the law, 45 against, the 3 United Torah Jewry MK's abstained, and 13 MK's did not participate in the vote. Our correspondents Yo'el Nir and Hayim Hecht report that all Labor MK's voted in favor of the budget, except for Ya'aqov Shefi, an Israel Aircraft Industries worker, who voted against the law. SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim], HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality], and the Arab Democratic Party also voted in favor of the budget. [passage omitted]

IAF To Act Against Government 'Harassment'

PM2710095593 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 25 Oct 93 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "After Accusing Authorities of Obstructing Its Electoral Activities, Islamic Action Front Threatens To Sue Jordanian Government"]

[Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Dr. Ishaq al-Farhan, secretary general of the Islamic Action Front party, yesterday announced measures which the party is going to take in reply to what he termed the government's harassment concerning the election campaign, especially after he was prevented from entering party premises for a news conference then subsequently allowed to do so after intervention at the highest level.

The measure that increased tension between the Front and the Jordanian Government was the government's removing a number of employees belonging to the Front from their workplaces, on the grounds that they were interfering in the election campaign in the Front's favor, according to Jordanian officials.

Al-Farhan told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday that among the measures the Front will take is that of convening its executive bureau today to study ways of tackling the matter. It will also call for a meeting for the Front's shura council, then it will officially decide how to tackle the problem, especially as the meeting between the Front's secretary general and Jordanian Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali last Thursday produced no points of agreement.

Dr. al-Farhan said that he is working toward meeting with the Jordanian monarch, King Husayn, as soon as possible before taking any measures, which he said may include suing the government "for violating the party's headquarters, and hence violating the law."

Police and security forces surrounded the Front's headquarters in Amman and prevented reporters entering the building. That was half an hour before the time set for a news conference called by Dr. al-Farhan yesterday to explain the removal from their workplaces and arbitrary reassignment of 37 school directors and Education Ministry directors.

When Dr. al-Farhan arrived ahead of the time set for the conference, that is 1430 hrs yesterday, the police prevented him entering the Front's headquarters. But a senior police officer allowed him to enter the building and contact Interior Ministry officials.

These contacts resulted in his being allowed to hold the news conference on certain conditions, the most important being that of not allowing reporters to meet with the employees in question.

Thus the employees left the building and the police evacuated the place.

For its part, the government emphasized through the interior minister that the decision to move some employees was within the framework of the stipulations of the law on elections for the Jordanian House of Representatives—an indication on its part that the employees it has moved had indulged in a kind of election propaganda in favor of some candidates, while the law absolutely forbids government employees to do so.

Al-Majali Responds to IAF Allegations

JN2610184893 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Interview with Jordanian Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al- Majali by radio correspondent Kamal Tarabayh "after delivering his speech at the UNESCO conference in Paris;" date not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Tarabayh] Mr. Prime Minister: The Islamic parties in Jordan accused the government of placing restrictions and preventing them from holding meetings, seminars, and demonstrations. What is your response to these accusations?

[Al-Majali] Sir, this government is implementing the law legislated by the previous House of Representatives in which the Islamic Front as well as other parties were represented. The Political Parties Law and the Elections Law ban government employees from using their jobs in election campaigns. However, the law allows those employees to join any party they want and to vote in favor of any party. The law, however, bans them from using government buildings or their jobs to put pressure on the citizens to make them vote in favor of any party. We are only implementing the law.

The law also bans the parties from using mosques or public squares in election campaigns. Party members can use anything else, their homes and private places. However, as usual, they accuse the government of anything.

[Tarabayh] In other words, these measures are implemented on all parties?

[Al-Majali] These measures are implemented on all—left, middle, right, and extremist parties—of the 22 parties. People like to attack the government because they believe that those who attack the government are nationalist and that they carry the torch of freedom. The government is carrying the torch of law and discipline. And the law, which they themselves—the previous parliament—not this government, enacted, is clear.

Officials Meet Palestinians on Finance, Banking

JN2610160193 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, minister of state for Cabinet Affairs, conferred at the Prime Ministry today with Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi, head of the PLO Economic Affairs and Planning Department.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah, the Jordanian ambassador in Washington; Dr. Muhammad Sa'id al-Nabulsi, governor of the Central Bank of Jordan; and Muhammad al-Saqqaf and Dr. Ahmad Mango, advisers to his highness the crown prince.

On the Palestinian side, the meeting was attended by Dr. Jawad Naji, director of the PLO Economic Affairs and Planning Department; al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, the state of Palestine's ambassador in Amman; and 'Umar al-Khatib, the plenipotentiary at the Palestinian Embassy in Amman.

Discussions at the meeting dealt with means of continuing coordination and cooperation in various economic fields, including banking activities, financial supervision, and commercial affairs in order to reach joint formulas on the frameworks of future economic cooperation between Jordan and Palestine.

Prince Opens Symposium on Impact of Gaza-Jericho

JN2610144693 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1200 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan has said that the open bridges policy Jordan has adopted towards the Israeli occupied territories was one of Jordan's contributions to maintaining the Arab identity of Jerusalem, and the West Bank, and Gaza Strip. His royal highness made the remarks at the opening ceremony in Amman of a workshop organized by the Arab Thought Forum on the economic repercussions of the Gaza-Jericho agreement.

He said: Jordan's policy, which at the outset faced fierce opposition by politicians, had provided an opportunity for setting up a national Palestinian economy in the occupied lands. His royal highness said the Palestinian economy should be national in its essence and realistic in terms of natural resources.

Prince Hasan said: The political differences, which had taken place between Jordanian Governments and the PLO over the past 20 years, had not influenced the Kingdom's economic relations with the West Bank, Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip.

He said: Jordan has sustained the Palestinian economy through being a market for Palestinian products when Israel imposed, what he called, the captive economy. Prince Hasan warned against rejoicing over the political aspect of any breakthrough, like celebrating Super Monday [13 September] and portraying the signing of the PLO- Israel peace deal as historic. This, he said, would have no imminent impact unless it was backed by real economic and scientific implementation.

Jewish Congress Team Leader Comments on Visit

JN2710100393 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 27 Oct 93 p 10

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter by P.V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—An American Jewish delegation ended a two-day visit to Jordan Tuesday, saying it found a firm Jordanian commitment to the Middle East peace process, but with little success in influencing the Kingdom to dilute its commitment to the Arab boycott of Israel before a peace settlement is reached with the Jewish state.

Robert Lifton, president of the American Jewish Congress (AJC) and leader of the delegation which included businessmen, however, described as highly valuable a meeting the 10-member team had with a group of Jordanian businessmen at the Chamber of Industry Tuesday.

"We opened the door for contacts and communications on a personal basis," Mr. Lifton told the Jordan Times shortly before the delegation left by road to cross the River Jordan.

"The Jordanian businessmen promised that they would seek means for cooperation with American firms which are now denied entry to the Arab market under the secondary part of the boycott because of their business links with Israel, he said.

Before the meeting, Mr. Lifton said the delegation would discuss "the kind of things that could be done in the region and how they could be accomplished and what kind of infrastructure exists for them and the best way to do them."

"The idea is to cut through politics and arrive at issues that directly concern business," he added.

By and large, Mr. Lifton said after the meeting, "We found a firm commitment and tremendous interest on the part of the Jordanian leadership and Jordanians to the peace process."

His Majesty King Husayn met with the delegation Monday and reaffirmed Jordan's commitment to seeking a comprehensive solution to the Middle East conflict through the two-year-old U.S.-backed peace negotiations.

Jordan's position, officials explained, is that the issue of the boycott of Israel was part of the conflict and the measure was adopted by the Arab League, and, as such, the Kingdom cannot adopt any unilateral move in this respect.

Once the root of the conflict is removed and an Arab-Israeli peace settlement is reached then the issue of boycott could be discussed, they say.

Furthermore, Israel cannot hope to enjoy any lifting of the boycott while it maintains the occupied territories as

a monopoly by imposing its own controls over goods entering the Palestinian market, they explain.

Mr. Lifton emphasised that his group's role was "not to tell anyone what to do, but to raise the point that the seconday boycott and the anti-boycott legislation" had a negative bearing on American firms doing business with the Arab World.

American laws bar U.S. firms from complying with the requirements of the Arab Boycott of Israel Office. The requirements include certificates of origin and other compliance documents. In theory, without these documents the goods will not be allowed into the Arab countries.

But U.S. companies issue the documents then they are subject to prosecution and heavy fines imposed by the U.S. government.

Mr. Lifton stressed that an improved climate was essential to encourage U.S. companies to do business with the Arab World.

"We explained that the secondary boycott might end being counterproductive to the very thing that everyone wanted, that is investment in the Middle East in order to improve the living standards and quality of life of the people of the region," he told the Jordan Times.

"This is what we told (Egyptian) President Husni Mubarak and (Palestine Liberation Organisation) Chairman Yasir 'Arafat," he said.

In Dubayy, a senior PLO official said Monday it was premature for Arabs to lift the economic boycott of Israel.

"It is early now to speak of lifting the Arab boycott," Hakam Bal'awi, a close aide to Mr. 'Arafat, was quoted as saying by Reuters in a Dubayy-destined dispatch.

"This decision requires a unanimous vote by the Arab League (Ministerial Council) when comprehensive peace is achieved," he added.

The American Jewish delegation, which arrived here from Saudi Arabia Monday, began its visit in Cairo, where it met with President Mubarak and Mr. 'Arafat, who flew there from Tunis for the meeting immediately after talks with U.S. envoy Dennis Ross last week.

Asked how the group viewed a Jordanian call on the American Jewish community to use its political influence to ensure a comprehensive, just and durable Middle East settlement is reached, Mr. Lifton said:

"There is an overwhelming support among the American Jewish community for the peace process and we will remain actively engaged in supporting and encouraging it."

But, he added, "we have to leave the specifics to the parties directly involved in the (negotiating) process. There is a firm commitment to peace from the government of Israel."

The delegation, which represents a cross-section of American Jewish leaders including a woman, former attorney-general-designate Zoe Baird, apparently did not make much headway with the Saudis either in its quest to end the secondary boycott.

Saudi leaders told the team that their country supported the peace process but did not indicate what they intended to do in response to the call for an end to the ban on firms trading with Israel.

"We made the point that steps should be taken, signals given, that would encourage the Israelis," Mr. Lifton said. But the delegation heard "no affirmation of what the Saudis would do."

Birri: Families Being Evacuated From Border Strip

NC2610124993 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Excerpts] The Chamber of Deputies met this morning under Speaker Nabih Birri. Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri and the ministers attended. [passage omitted]

Speaker Birri opened the general session and delivered a speech in which he dealt with local and regional developments. He said:

[Begin Birri recording] We are currently experiencing a waiting period imposed by the peace process. I believe that we must be careful and vigilant because new forms of pressure will be applied on our kinsfolk in the south and western al-Biqa'. A serious process has begun; the evacuation of Lebanese families from the so- called border strip to vacate the area. So far the number of families evacuated is seven, but the operation was accompanied by blowing up their homes and raiding others in al-Khiyam and al- 'Urqub.

I wanted to begin this session with this issue so that the Chamber of Deputies could do its duty and contact international organizations on this issue and the government could take action to avoid any repercussions, particularly because a naval blockade has been imposed, as you all know. In my humble view, Lebanon will pay the price for this waiting period. [end recording]

Al-Hariri Rejects Resettlement of Palestinians

NC2610134193 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri today stressed Lebanon's rejection of the resettlement of Palestinians on its territory.

Al-Hariri said: We are afraid that such a resettlement will be imposed on us. We have asked France to adopt a clear position when this issue is raised. We have also discussed this matter with the Americans.

Al-Hariri pointed out that France backs the Lebanese Government's stance on this issue.

In remarks to the Saudi newspaper 'UKAZ, al-Hariri said Syrian and Lebanese interests are identical regarding the ongoing negotiations with Israel. He added: There is no justification for separating identical interests.

He denied, however, that there are any plans to establish a Lebanese-Syrian confederation.

Commenting on his relationship with the president, Al-Hariri said that it is good.

Al-Hariri on Palestinians, Disarming Resistance

NC2710111293 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has affirmed that the situation in Lebanon is improving and that confidence in Lebanon is increasing. He said that there is clear harmony among the cabinet members. He noted that some incidents that crop up here and there do not affect the march.

In an interview with the Saudi magazine AL-MAJALLAH, Prime Minister al-Hariri said: In one year we have achieved a great deal in repairing telephone and water networks, returning the refugees to their homes, and upgrading services. He added: However, it is impossible to return the country to its previous position in one year after 17 years of civil war. He said: We are working to secure financial resources.

Prime Minister al-Hariri denied that there are any differences between him and the president or between him and any minister over any policy. He said that he explained Lebanon's stand on the resettlement of the Palestinians in Lebanon. He said this resettlement should not be included in their [not further identified] calculations of a solution because resettlement means giving citizenship to the Palestinians, and this is something that we will not do.

Prime Minister al-Hariri denied that there are any talks with the Israelis other than the ongoing talks in Washington. He said the whole outcome of these talks depends on Israel, which must implement UN Security Council Resolution 425 and withdraw from all occupied Lebanese territories. We will then be responsible for security in these territories.

Prime Minister al-Hariri asked: Why are we being asked to disarm citizens who are resisting occupation? He described the current phase as critical. He said: We are not against the people expressing their views. We are concerned about the demonstrators and are not afraid of them. We are interested in the country's stability. Certainly, we did not prevent demonstrations because of a political stand by the government. On the contrary, our position is close to their position.

Buwayz Statement on Ross Tour 'Inaccurate'

NC2610183993 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] The office of Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has issued the following statement: Certain media cited a statement by the foreign minister on the failure of the trip by Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator for the Middle East peace talks.

The foreign minister's press office is anxious to clarify that what has been attributed to Minister Buwayz was not a statement or a press interview and that it was

inaccurate and did not express the minister's real assessment of the tour. In addition, it contained many inaccuracies in its translation from French into Arabic.

Officials' Presence at Seminar With Israelis Probed

NC2710102093 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Signs of a new crisis between the Chamber of Deputies and the government appeared during the general parliamentary debate yesterday. The crisis arose over the attendance by Butrus Labaki, deputy chairman of the Council for Development and Reconstruction [CDR], and Dr. Bahzad Hakim of a water conference in Turkey in which Israeli representatives participated. Some deputies demanded an inquiry into the matter.

Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri's reply to the deputies was astonishing. He affirmed that Labaki and Hakim attended the conference in their personal capacity and that he did not know anything about this matter, which was not submitted to the cabinet. Minister of State Anwar al-Khalil also affirmed that he did not know anything about this matter.

Former Prime Minister 'Umar Karami described the government as a government of normalization [of relations with Israel].

The question that is looking for an answer is how could Labaki and Hakim have participated in a conference without the knowledge of their superiors? Both Labaki and Hakim are university professors known for their discipline. Where is the truth? Is it possible that the government of development and reconstruction has abandoned the CDR deputy chairman? The government must answer these questions and must open an inquiry to disclose who is really responsible for what happened.

[Paris AFP in English at 2227 GMT on 26 October in a Beirut datelined item reports the following: "Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri ordered an inquiry Tuesday into why senior officials took part in a seminar on Middle East water resources attended by Israeli delegates without informing the government.

["Al-Hariri told parliament deputies that Butrus Labaki, vice- president of the state-sponsored Development and Reconstruction Council and Professor Bahzad Hakim of the Lebanese University 'participated on their own initiative' in the seminar, organized in early October in the Turkish capital Ankara.

["Al-Hariri said he would submit the results of the inquiry to parliament. He said Labaki had told him that he saw nothing wrong in attending the seminar."]

Hizballah's Nasrallah on Peace, Resistance

JN2610132293 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 25-31 Oct 93 pp 24-28

[Interview with Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah by Ghassan Shirbil in Beirut—date not given]

[Excerpts] [Shirbil] What did you feel when President 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister shook hands? What danger does the Gaza- Jericho agreement pose to the Islamic movement and how will you approach this stage?

[Nasrallah] I believe that we are all aware of the perils this capitulation entails. This is because what is being produced these days is not peace. Every individual who has Islamic, national, or pan-Arab sentiments and is concerned over the dignity of his people, his nation, received a deep blow on 13 September because what Yasir 'Arafat has done differs from what those who preceded him had done and from what those who will come later will do. Late President Anwar al-Sadat failed to liquidate the Palestinian cause, but Yasir 'Arafat, who negotiated as the Palestinian people's sole and legitimate representative, or who claimed that he was negotiating in this capacity, tried to deal the severest blow to the Palestinian people's history.

While being a tragic incident, this step does not call for despair. We were expecting that the day would come when these leaders will fall because they were proceeding toward such a collapse and such a day was inevitable.

As for the impact the Gaza-Jericho agreement will have on the Islamic movement, I would like to affirm here that this agreement is part of a settlement that will be imposed on the governments and people of this region. It not only poses a threat to the Islamic movement but to the entire nation and states in this region. When we speak about the Gaza-Jericho agreement or any other humiliating settlement with the Israeli enemy, we speak about the anxiety, apprehension, and perils concerning the fate of a people, a nation, and a homeland and not the fate of a party, movement, or an Islamic movement or faction.

[Shirbil] Do you feel that the program of the regime and the government in Lebanon contains a provision for striking at the Islamic movement in Lebanon?

[Nasrallah] You mean an overt or secret provision? At present, we hear many statements and reassurances that the authorities do not want this, and that striking at the Islamic movement is not part of their program. However, if we go by the intentions of this or that official we might reach the conclusion that such a thing exists in one form or the other. A series of incidents which has taken place confirms that there are people in power who are pushing things in that direction, into confrontation with the Islamic movement. [passage omitted]

[Shirbil] If Israel says it is ready to withdraw within three months and the price it wants in return is the suspension of armed operations and disarming the resistance, what will you say?

[Nasrallah] So long as our land is occupied, no one can speak to us about operations or weapons.

[Shirbil] If Israel withdraws to the international border, what will the resistance do with its weapons?

[Nasrallah] Then, we will study the political developments and atmosphere and what is being proposed and we will decide accordingly.

[Shirbil] Does this mean that Israel's withdrawal to the international borders does not obligate you to suspend the military part of the conflict. You are also using the word Jews and not Israelis?

[Nasrallah] Whether I say Jews or Israelis, the result is the same. When Israel withdraws to the recognized international borders between Lebanon and Palestine we will consider the issue of the Lebanese territory as being closed, irrespective of how this occupation has been terminated. There remains another cause which does not concern the Lebanese alone. It primarily concerns the Palestinians and all the Arabs, Muslims, and those who have a free conscience in this world.

Palestine is an occupied land, and the entity which exists on it is void. Time does not cancel rights. The Palestinian land belongs to the Palestinian people and the nation. It is not the property of 'Arafat so that he may give the Israeli entity the territories that were occupied in 1948, and so that he may negotiate with the Israelis on Jerusalem and discuss with them the future of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. 'Arafat has not received any authorization from anyone. No one has the right to forgive the occupiers and the usurpers. The Palestinian people have the right to resist the usurpers. They are primarily responsible for this. The Arab and Islamic nation are also dutybound to support them. As for how, this will be decided by the nature of the developments and circumstances.

[Shirbil] Are you going to resort to violence to foil the expected peace?

[Nasrallah] I disagree with you on calling it peace. What is taking place is not peace, or, let us say that it is peace in appearance but based on an imposed capitulation. Those who went to the negotiations are talking about a serious defect in regional and international balances. We are serious about confronting the U.S.-Israeli hegemony, not only on Lebanon, but on the entire region. Confronting hegemony is our duty. However, the forms and means of confrontation are determined by circumstances. We do not carry out acts of violence in Lebanon, but acts of resistance. No one can give definite answers concerning the future, because we must know the nature of developments which will be produced by the settlement.

[Shirbil] Some sides sanctioned the shedding of President Yasir 'Arafat's blood. What is your position?

[Nasrallah] The execution of this decision depends on those who sanctioned the shedding of 'Arafat's blood. We have not thus far adopted such a stand.

[Shirbil] Does this mean that there are undeclared positions?

[Nasrallah] We always wish that all peoples can express their will, identity, and entity. We were very happy when Khalid al-Islambulli and his group assassinated Anwar al-Sadat. We cannot conceal our happiness with this. When any Palestinian plays the same role, a Palestinian al-Islambulli, against he who betrayed the Palestine question, we will certainly be very happy.

[Shirbil] You mean 'Arafat?

[Nasrallah] Of course.

[Shirbil] Are you going to issue a fatwa [Islamic legal ruling] sanctioning the killing of any Lebanese who signs a peace agreement with Israel?

[Nasrallah] Until then, let us wait and see. Are you in a hurry?

[Shirbil] The region seems to be in a hurry. You said that the religious leadership in Iran extends aid to Hizballah. Does this leadership support others in the region?

[Nasrallah] You should ask them. We, in Hizballah, receive aid from religious quarters that have considerable material resources away from the political authority and regime in Iran.

[Shirbil] Some say that the figure is $10 million per month?

[Nasrallah] I do not like to discuss figures, but the figures which we usually read in newspapers are exaggerated.

[Shirbil] As a Shiite party, Hizballah enjoys special status. However, there are reports about Iranian support for Sudan and the Islamic groups in Egypt. Does this not mean that a state supports an organization. Is this not different from the relationship between the religious quarters and Hizballah? In other words, does this not mean exporting the revolution?

[Nasrallah] Is it true that Iran supports Islamic groups in Egypt? As far as I know, such support is nonexistent.

[Shirbil] And Sudan?

[Nasrallah] They are two states, and any two states can establish economic and trade ties. I know that even the oil Iran gives to Sudan, is being given on a commercial basis, and not free of charge.

[Shirbil] What about Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]?

[Nasrallah] I do not have accurate information about this subject.

[Shirbil] There has been a call for the withdrawal of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard forces from Lebanon. What happened to this issue?

[Nasrallah] Let us look at the size of the Revolutionary Guard forces in Lebanon. They are a group of experts and intellectuals who give their expertise and knowledge to some movements in Lebanon. There are no military forces in the traditional and classic sense of the word. When they talk about armies in Lebanon, they also talk about the Iranian army.

[Shirbil] Experts in what?

[Nasrallah] Experts [laughing]. The Revolutionary Guard forces were clear from the very beginning. Some of their personnel came following the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982, and they were not engaged in combat with the occupation forces. Their main task was to train the Lebanese how to use weapons to resist the occupation.

[Shirbil] Can we say that the Iranians played a role in training the resistance?

[Nasrallah] Yes, and this is an honorable thing.

[Shirbil] It is being said that there are 800 Revolutionary Guard elements in Lebanon. Is this an accurate figure?

[Nasrallah] I prefer not to discuss numbers. However, the numbers they are talking about are not true. Currently, there are no Revolutionary Guard forces in Lebanon. [passage omitted]

Iranian Envoy Meets Fadlallah, Shams al-Din

LD2610192493 Tehran IRNA in English 1644 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Beirut, Oct. 26, IRNA—Leader's representative, Hojjat-ol-Eslam 'Abdollah Nuri, on a visit to Lebanon, met with Lebanese leading alim, al-'Allamah Seyyed Mohammad Husayn Fadlallah, and Vice-Speaker of the Supreme Shiite Council, Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, here Monday.

Nuri referred to the Gaza-Jericho deal and underlined the Islamic Republic's stance on the compromise trend in the region.

He stated that Iran deplored the compromise adding that recognition of the Zionist regime would only bring humility to the Islamic ummah.

Nuri warned Muslims against enemy plots and called on them to be vigilant and closely follow the developments in the region in order to make proper decisions in foiling these plots.

Resistance Operations in South Detailed

Israeli Position in Sujud Hit

NC2610175793 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Resistance men used artillery and rockets to attack an Israeli position in Sujud today. Three Israeli soldiers were wounded. The Israelis and South Lebanese Army troops retaliated by bombarding resistance-controlled areas in Iqlim al-Tuffah.

The Israeli position was hit by more than 40 120-mm and 81-mm mortar shells during the attack.

It should be recalled that the resistance men attacked the Sujud and Bra'shit positions yesterday.

SLA Radio Confirms Israeli Casualties

NC2710085993 (Clandestine) Voice of the South in Arabic to Lebanon 0800 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Our military correspondent reports that three Israeli soldiers were wounded as a result of the artillery shelling of the Sujud area yesterday afternoon. Israeli artillery returned the fire.

SLA Rakes Hasbayya Area

NC2610173493 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] The agent Lahd militia [South Lebanese Army, SLA] today carried out an extensive raking operation in the liberated areas in Hasbayya region, using various types of machine guns over two hours.

This afternoon, the Israeli occupation forces in Taw'amat Niha directed heavy bursts of gunfire at the hills around 'Ayn al-Tinah Mountain. This was accompanied by [Israeli] military aircraft flights over Western al-Biqa' and Iqlim al-Tuffah.

Islamic Resistance, PFLP Operations Noted

NC2710082693 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] The occupation troops last night intermittently shelled the eastern hills of Kafr Rumman, al-Nabatiyah al-Fawqa, and the outskirts of the abandoned Army barracks in al-Nabatiyah with mortar and tank fire from their positions on the al-Dabshah hills and Tuhrah.

The Islamic Resistance fighters yesterday afternoon fired more than 40 shells at the Zionist occupiers' position in Sujud. The position received direct hits and a number of the enemy army's personnel was either killed or wounded. A Zionist military spokesman admitted that three Zionist soldiers received various injuries during the bombardment of the position. The Islamic Resistance strugglers earlier yesterday monitored a number of

three Zionist soldiers received various injuries during the bombardment of the position. The Islamic Resistance strugglers earlier yesterday monitored a number of Zionist mechanized vehicles assembled at the Sribbin-Bayt Lif-Wadi al-'Uyun triangle. The Resistance artillery shelled the vehicles, scoring direct hits.

In another development, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] has stated that one of its groups planted explosive devices along the military road linking al-Qawzah and Jabal Humayyid in the Western sector of the occupied border zone. One of the devices exploded while an enemy mechanized patrol was passing by. A vehicle was destroyed and those inside it were either killed or wounded as a result.

Israeli Planes Raid Hizballah Target

NC2710113493 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Two Israeli warplanes at noon today raided Iqlim al- Tuffah heights. Security sources have stated that the raid targeted a Hizballah position on the Mlita hill. No further information is available.

Raid Targets al-Luwayzah, Jabal Safi

NC2710112193 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1100 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Israeli warplanes raided Iqlim al-Tuffah heights at 1220 today. The raid targeted the al-Luwayzah and Jabal Safi areas.

Cabinet Reviews Ross, Hurd Visits, Peace Efforts

JN2610142593 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Excerpt] The Council of Ministers held a meeting under Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi at 11 today and reviewed the work of the services, economic, and cultural committees. It also discussed the current political developments in both the Arab and international arenas. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' then reviewed the outcome of the visits to Syria by Dennis Ross and Douglas Hurd, as well as international peace efforts to achieve a just a comprehensive solution in the region in accordance with Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 and land-for-peace principle.

The Council of Ministers also acquainted itself with the positive political and economic results of the foreign minister's visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, where he headed the Syrian Arab side to the meetings of the Joint Higher Syrian-Saudi Committee. [passage omitted]

Commentary Views Israeli Stance on Gaza-Jericho

JN2510162593 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Events have shown that Syria was right when it warned that Israel's allegations about peace were just a media uproar to cover its true intentions. Israel has spared no effort to avoid any legitimate international peace formula that can provide a framework for a comprehensive peace. It is only interested in striking unilateral deals to impose certain arrangements supporting its ambitions and to retain the Arab territories it occupies. This will be in harmony with Israel's security, political, and economic interests when a settlement is reached.

The Gaza-Jericho agreement is evidence. As soon as Israel reached that agreement, it completely turned its back on the peace process by preventing progress for two years, because it discovered from the beginning that the process contained restrictions that would prevent it from rebelling against international legitimacy, principles, and norms.

From the beginning, Israel tried to conceal its intentions behind the Oslo deal by launching a media uproar and hinting that the deal was a step toward a comprehensive peace in the region. However, no sooner had the uproar died down than Israel revealed its desire to paralyze the Washington negotiating process aimed at comprehensive peace, alleging that it needs time to digest the Oslo agreement.

Israel has been unable to persuade anyone, even simple-minded people, that its position is right. How can it allege it wants peace and seek, at the same time, to freeze progress toward it and also say the agreement constitutes a step toward that peace? Where is the connection between the initial step and efforts to progress toward comprehensive peace when Israel wants to stop at that step and suspend what is supposed to lead to peace? If there is no connection, then there is a clear contradiction. In other words, if the Oslo agreement is not a step toward comprehensive peace, which Israel claims to be seeking, then it is a step toward foiling that peace. This is more correct, and this is what Syria has warned against from the beginning.

Israel's demand to freeze peace negotiations on the remaining tracks proves that the partial and unilateral agreement was an objective in itself, despite all the Israeli allegations. All the excuses Israel uses to cover its attempts to paralyze comprehensive peace will not mislead anyone. Its claim that it will not go to negotiations with Syria before exploring Syria's position on the concept of peace is like refusing to perform prayers before entering paradise first. Where is the harmony between Israel's attempt to freeze the negotiations until it digests the Gaza-Jericho agreement gains and its insistence on exploring the nature of peace Syria wants before agreeing to resume negotiations on comprehensive peace?

It is obvious that the Israeli leaders want to halt any progress toward comprehensive peace. Their impossible terms serve that goal. It is also clear that, over the past days, the Israeli position has begun to raise the international community's worries and fears over the peace prospect that the Madrid conference provided. Even Israel's allies, which support the Gaza-Jericho agreement, have begun to discover the Israeli trap behind the agreement that is aimed at undermining comprehensive and just peace, as defined by the Madrid formula. The fears of Israel's allies is reflected in their appeal to parties involved to continue the negotiating process toward comprehensive peace and not to stop at the Gaza-Jericho agreement.

Gentlemen: We have emphasized that Israel entered the peace process with ill intentions and with the aim of undermining it from within. This is what we see. The current collapse not only harms the process in form and content, but also the dream of peace the world believed was a stone's throw away when the Madrid conference convened. Will the world sit back with folded arms while it witnesses the collapse of that dream as a result of the Israeli position? And is it true that no one can get Israel to bow to international will and to commit itself to a comprehensive and just peace?

Press Notes Syria's 'Major Role' in Peace Process

JN2510093393 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 25 Oct 93

[From the press review]

[Text] Commenting on Syria's major role in the peace process, TISHRIN says: Successive developments have proven beyond doubt that Syria has a major role, and that peace in the region can never be established without

Syria. The entire world has recognized the importance of Syria's role, because without the return of the Golan achieving peace in the region can never be guaranteed.

TISHRIN underscores the British foreign secretary's assertion that the goal of this peace process should be comprehensive peace in the region. This requires including Syria and securing its approval as a major state in the region.

The paper says that several officials and politicians, including U.S. President Bill Clinton, have also stressed the importance of an active, influential Syrian role in the course of regional developments and toward the peace process.

TISHRIN adds: Despite all of this, Israel is still trying to reverse facts. Because Syria would not fall into the trap of secret negotiations and narrow corridors, Israeli officials announce that Syria does not want peace. They also claim that Syria is obstructing the peace process.

TISHRIN goes on: Israeli claims and allegations are self-exposing. They do not hold water, especially given Syria's persistent efforts to achieve a comprehensive, just peace. Out of its awareness of this Israeli policy, Syria will continue to adhere to the principles it has adopted and on whose basis the Madrid conference was held. Syria will also remain greatly concerned about full, real implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy and the land-for-peace principle. The Washington talks represent the only framework to achieve this. Syria will never fall into the Israeli trap that radically contradicts the requirements of a just, comprehensive peace. Syria has summed up these requirements in the formula of full withdrawal in return for comprehensive peace. This is specifically stipulated in Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425.

The paper notes Israel's refusal to comply with the resolutions of international legitimacy and underlines the basic principles that govern Syria's policy, as well as the document it presented during the sixth round of the Washington talks. When Israel was faced with Syria's pan-Arab decision and was sure that Syria adheres to the document presented during the sixth round, it stepped up its campaign to cast doubt on Syria's position and tried to mar Syria's role.

Concluding, the paper says: Syria is immune to Israeli penetration. It is impossible to achieve peace in the region by ignoring the positive, constructive Syrian role toward the peace process. Neither Israel nor any other party is allowed to ignore the obvious Syrian realities or disregard Syria's efforts before and after the Madrid conference to achieve a just, comprehensive peace.

Commenting on the peace process and the new European role in this process, AL-BA'TH says: If we can say that the peace process is still at square one and that this process is suffering a great deal because of Israeli obstacles and the intransigent positions of the Rabin government, then we can say that a chance is now available to the international community in general, its major powers in particular, to assume an active role to advance the peace process through several channels and means.

AL-BA'TH adds: Russia played a major role in sponsoring the peace process, alongside the United States, as a superpower. Russia's influence has now diminished because of its domestic affairs. This is why Europe is more qualified to play a role in the peace process, given its geographic proximity to the tense region of the Middle East and in light of the presumed attention to mutual Arab-European interests.

The paper notes the British foreign secretary's visit to the region, including Syria, to pave the way, one way or another, for an expected European role. Europe's role remains important and effective in the framework mentioned above. However, what gives it particular importance now is the need to intensify international pressure on Israel to abandon its intransigent, maneuvering position.

AL-BA'TH concludes: The region can never enjoy stability and security unless Israel complies with the foundations and principles of Madrid. The current stage requires coordinating U.S. and European diplomacy to put pressure on Israel so the obstacles to the peace process can be removed. The results of this should appear during the awaited regional tour of the U.S. secretary of state.

Criticizes Israeli 'Anti-Syria' Campaign

JN2710091993 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 27 Oct 93

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper AL-BA'TH today comments on Israeli delusions regarding the Gaza-Jericho accord, which deem it the end of the road for the peace process, saying: Israel has begun to step up its campaigns against Syria, declaring that it is in no rush to resume the Washington talks. The Rabin government obtained this accord without giving anything to the Palestinian people or the Arabs in return. It wants to impose a new political course aimed at torpedoing the peace initiative, upon which the bilateral negotiations were based, and reaching partial solutions and separate agreements that would rob the Arabs of their rights and open the doors wide for the Zionist domination of the entire world.

AL-BA'TH adds: Israel's attempts to evade the Syrian position to impose dictates later will prove to be unsuccessful. This is because Syria will not accept Israeli dictates. Nor will it accept any conditions under any circumstances, regardless of whether the peace process proceeds slowly, is halted, or is accelerated. Syria is demanding firm and recognized rights. Besides, what Syria is doing is in harmony with the resolutions of international legitimacy and the UN conventions.

AL-BA'TH notes the distinct Syrian position since the inception of the Corrective Movement under the historic leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad, saying: This distinction has been reflected in Syria's clear and unequivocal course, which is based on a comprehensive pan-Arab perspective as well as firm principles, which do not allow for the renunciation of a single right.

The paper adds: The Palestine question has been and still is the Arabs' primary cause. Moreover, the issue of the occupied territories, which has expanded the scope of the Arab-Israeli conflict, is an indivisible whole. It is impossible to differentiate between this or that part of the occupied territories.

Concluding its commentary, AL-BA'TH says: Syria, which has provided the nation and the entire world with a multitude of evidence showing its steadfastness as well as its determination not to succumb to pressures, is capable of continuing its principled course until Israel complies with the resolutions of international legitimacy.

For its part, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: Since the convocation of the Madrid conference two years ago, Israel has been seeking, in haphazard fashion, to negotiate with the Arab sides one at a time. It has been promoting separate settlements and attempting to evade compliance with the resolutions of international legitimacy. The Tel Aviv rulers have been making a deliberate effort to close the doors to peace.

AL-THAWRAH adds: The moves and plans Israel has been persistently attempting to promote as initiatives and gestures of goodwill are incapable of producing solutions, as everybody has acknowledged. They are meant to misrepresent the facts of the conflict and the relevant UN and UN Security Council resolutions.

AL-THAWRAH believes that partial settlements would exempt Israel of any responsibility or accountability before the international community. Such settlements would enable Israel to disregard the resolutions of international legitimacy. They would also legitimize all the crimes and inhuman practices it has committed over the past 47 years, the paper contends.

Concluding its commentary, AL-THAWRAH says: While renewing its commitment to just and comprehensive peace and showing concern for achieving it in accordance with the terms of reference agreed on for the Madrid conference, Syria reiterates that the policy of separating tracks and partitioning peace and solutions, coupled with the provocative statements made daily by Rabin and Peres on Israel's determination to continue with settlement activities and perpetuate the occupation of Jerusalem, are all evidence of a lack of desire for peace on Israel's part. Moreover, such developments cannot pave the way for holding a new round of talks to end the current stalemated peace talks. Worse still, these developments would only exacerbate the situation, and leave the doors open to all serious eventualities.

The newspaper TISHRIN believes that the statements made yesterday by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin that he is opposed to withdrawal to the pre-June 1967 borders, even within the framework of peace agreements with the Arab states, and his reiteration that Jerusalem will remain the unified capital of Israel are manifestations of Israeli positions that are diametrically opposed to peace. These statements were made at a time when international, particularly U.S., efforts are being made to advance the peace process. By these statements, Rabin might have sought to strike at the peace process and the U.S. efforts to ensure true progress on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks.

TISHRIN adds: Israel's rejection of the components of just peace as well as its failure to meet the requirements of true peace indicate its intransigent stands as well as its desire to forget about the land-for-peace formula and replace it with the peace-for-peace formula, something which runs counter to the objectives spelled out in documents and pledges grounded in UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425.

TISHRIN goes on to say: If Israel had really wanted peace and was concerned about regional stability, it would have acted, since the first round of the Washington talks, to fully meet the requirements of peace.

Concluding its commentary, TISHRIN says: However, Israel, throughout two years of arduous and tough negotiations, deliberately sought to evade the requirements of peace. It has circumvented the components of peace, not to mention its pursuit of an aggressive policy. It has done all this in a bid to ensure the endorsement of its schemes and plans, which are couched in deceptive claims about partial solutions and phased settlements. All this means that Israel is still far away from true and comprehensive peace.

India

Further on Status of Hazratbal Shrine Occupation

Negotiations Said To Continue

BK2610125893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] In Srinagar, negotiations are on to resolve the stalemate at the Hazratbal Shrine. Addressing a press conference, the state additional chief secretary, Mr. Mahmoodur Rahman, said the government's main objective is to ensure the sanctity of the shrine and the safety of the innocent persons trapped inside. He hoped that the militants will surrender and accept the supremacy of law. One of the chief negotiators with the militants told our Srinagar correspondent that one round of talks was held this morning and another is expected this evening. It has been revealed that most of the persons who were given medical assistance yesterday are suffering from gastroentritis. Meanwhile, more medicines have been supplied inside the shrine.

The state's DG [director general] of police, Mr. M.M. Sabharwal, said the situation throughout the valley was by and large peaceful today.

The prime minister has expressed the hope that the situation at the Hazratbal Shrine in Srinagar will soon improve, as relentless efforts continue to this end. Addressing a meeting at Mandi in Himachal Pradesh today, Mr. Narasimha Rao appealed to the people not to allow the mixing of religion with politics. He said that top priority is being given to accelerating the pace of development in the country.

Addressing another meeting in Una, Mr. Rao said the NRI's [non- resident Indians] have promised an investment of 14,000 crore rupees till now.

Minister Denies Differences With Army

BK2610155693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] The home minister has denied reports in a section of the press about differences between the Army and the Jammu and Kashmir authorities on handling of the situation in and around Hazratbal Shrine. Talking to reporters in New Delhi, Mr. S.B. Chavan said that there is a unified command of local and Army officers to deal with the situation.

Asked how long the Center would allow the present impasse to continue, Mr. Chavan said dialogue with the militants is on and some solution may be forthcoming if their attitude softens.

Replying to a question, the home minister made it clear that no offer of free passage has been made to the militants. He said deadline cannot be fixed for resolving the Hazratbal imbroglio. It depends on the outcome of the negotiations. He observed that the safety of the shrine is important and added that had it not been so, we would have stormed it immediately.

Mr. Chavan accused Pakistan of aiding and abetting terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir. He deplored the demand of Pakistan for free passage to the militants hiding in the shrine.

Bid To Eject Occupants Continues

BK2710033293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] In Srinagar, persistent efforts are on to persuade the armed militants inside the Hazratbal shrine to come out so that the sanctity of the shrine is maintained. Another round of negotiations was held last evening between the government representative, Mr. Wajahat Habibullah, and the militants holed up inside the shrine. The state government says it is hopeful of an early solution to the tangle. Security cordon around the shrine complex continues, but no incident has been reported. A precautionary curfew is now confined to only five of the 22 police station areas in Srinagar city.

In Kupwara, the militants made a futile attempt by firing a rocket which could have hit the residence of the superintendent of police. The rocket missed the target and hit a tree.

In Jammu and Kashmir, the Army has foiled another intrusion bid by Pakistan-trained militants in the Punch Sector. Four militants were killed yesterday and a large quantity of arms was recovered. Among those killed was a self-styled chief of the militant outfit named Liaqat Hussain. Army and police jawans [personnel] are still combing the area.

Authorities 'Insist' on Surrender

BK2710113293 Hong Kong AFP in English 1052 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Excerpt] Srinagar, India, Oct 27 (AFP) - Indian authorities performed an about-face and insisted Wednesday on a surrender by Moslem guerrillas holding out against an army siege of Kashmir's holiest Islamic shrine for the past 12 days.

"Unless the militants surrender there seems to be no solution in sight," said Mehmood ur Rehman, a senior official of the Kashmir administration, as a protest strike crippled life in the troubled valley.

"The sanctity of the shrine and the holy relic inside it can only be preserved once the militants surrender," Rehman said in a statement which dimmed prospects of a speedy negotiated end to the impasse at Hazratbal mosque.

He said he would not hazard a guess when asked whether he was hopeful the tense drama would draw to a close before Friday, the day of the Moslem sabbath, when street protests are feared against the army action.

Rehman's remarks marked a hardening of Tuesday's government stance that it was not interested in a "surrender or capture" of the estimated 50 armed rebels holed up inside Hazratbal. There are also about 70 civilians inside.

There was no explanation for the shift in position. The official, however, ruled out the possibility of an army assault on the shrine, where a single hair believed to come from the beard of the Prophet Mohammad is preserved. [passage omitted]

Kashmiri Intellectuals', Leaders' Summit Opens

BK2610102793 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] A conference of political leaders and intellectuals from Jammu and Kashmir began in New Delhi today to mark the 46th anniversary of Kashmir's accession to India. Addressing it, the National Conference leader, Professor Saifuddin Soz, called upon leaders from various walks of life to help build bridges of understanding with the people of Kashmir. He said there is need for compassion in dealing with them as they have suffered long. Force alone cannot yield results.

The convener and the president of the Panthers Party, Professor Bhim Singh, said that the political process should be started in the state by intellectuals and political activists.

The two-day conference will discuss various issues like the stalemate at the Hazratbal dargah [shrine], the return of Kashmiri migrants to the valley, unemployment and related matters. The conference is being attended by leaders of the National Conference, the Congress-I, the Janata Dal and some organizations as well as by senior journalists and artists of the state.

Increased Activity of ISI at Nepal Border Seen

BK2710105093 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 21 Oct 93 p 11

[Text] Lucknow—Reports about increased activity of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence [ISI] on the Indo-Nepal border bas given a new dimension to the prospects of election-eve violence in Uttar Pradesh [UP].

State police chief V.P. Kapur, who visited eastern UP districts on the border, asked local police officials to remain specially alert to the machinations of ISI agents, who have consolidated their base in border towns such as Nautanawa, Chandanpur, Aligarh and Dhebarua.

Kapur confirmed that there were reports of ISI agents helping some Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) and Punjab militants holed up in Nepal. He recently held a meeting of senior police officials of border districts at Behraich.

Intelligence sources revealed that some Muslim politicians in Nepal were working for ISI. One of them, Dilshad Beg of Sadbhawana Party, recently met groups of suspected Pakistan agents from Kanpur and Lucknow in Biratnagar. A senior ISI official, identified as Farooq Mill of Pakistan occupied Kashmir, had also visited Nepal a few months back. Beg, who hails from Deoria district of UP, has a dozen criminal cases against him in UP and Madhya Pradesh. He is reportedly patronising some mafia group in East UP, including one led by Irfan alias Gamma, who is wanted in 39 cases.

The state police chief is under stood to have broached the subject with authorities in Nepal also The ties between ISI, elements of JKLF and Bhindranwale Tiger Force (BTF) were confirmed when the police arrested a terrorist, Gurdeep Singh, in Lakhimpur Kheri district in the Terai belt recently. Singh told them that he had helped militants in fleeing on the basis of forged passports.

Takeover of a Kathmandu hotel by a Pakistani group and the recent arrest of some ISI and JKLF activists from another hotel in Nepal also indicated increased activity of Pakistani subversive agents in East UP.

New 22-Battalion Paramilitary Force To Be Formed

BK2610075293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] The center has sanctioned the setting up of a new 22 battalion paramilitary force known as the Indian Reserve Battalion, IRB, for internal security operations in eight states. A senior police official told AIR [All India Radio] Chandigarh correspondent that 10 battalions would be raised in Punjab, four in Andhra Pradesh, two each in Assam and Rajasthan, and one each in Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Manipur, and Mizoram. This is the second major paramilitary force to be raised for the purpose after the Rapid Action Force last year.

Pakistan Said Setting Up Clandestine Radio Stations

BK2710102493 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 21 Oct 93 p 11

[Text] Jammu—Pakistan has set up more c'andestine radio stations in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) to intensify its disinformation campaign against the security forces and civil authorities in Jammu and Kashmir. Official sources said a number of propaganda programmes have been monitored during the last 45 days from these pirate stations in the evenings. The programmes, which are broadcast in different languages, including Kashmiri, Dogri, Gojri, Pahari, Bhaderwah and Punjabi, stretched for nearly two hours from 9 pm. Some of these programmes were allotted to militant outfits like Al-Jehad, Hezbul Mojahedin, JKLF [Jammu & Kashmir Liberation Front], Ikhwan-ul-Muslimeen and Dukhtran-e-Millet to carry out their campaigns across the border.

Distinguished Panelists Discuss Pakistan Ties

BK2510140393 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1600 GMT 24 Oct 93

["Current Affairs" panel discussion with former diplomat L.L. Mehrotra, Minorities Commission member Professor M.S. Advani, political commentator Rashid Talib, and moderator journalist S. Viswam]

[Text] [Viswam] Any development in Pakistan is of considerable interest and significance for India since India and Pakistan are close neighbors. Elections have taken place in Pakistan and from all accounts they were free and fair, and a new government has come into office. And, it has so happened that Benazir Bhutto is once again the prime minister of Pakistan. India and Pakistan, although being close neighbors and once—four decades ago—part of the same country, have had many ups and downs in their relationship. It is, therefore, but natural, for Indians and I suppose for Pakistanis also, to indulge in some kind of a speculative thinking about how relations between these two neighbors will be affected by any political change inside Pakistan. Considering the fact that very biased hopes are being expressed by leaders on both sides that there should be improvement, that there should be normalization, there should be greater interaction both at government and popular level, it is only to be expected that this time too similar thinking will be there. One does not know what assessment to make, particularly in India because the Indian experience is always been that hopes are raised, expectations are raised, but they are always invariably belied. Meetings at high levels get postponed or canceled—largely because Pakistan raises some contentious issues. We should examine the possibilities of improvement in bilateral relations between India and Pakistan keeping in view not only the past, but we should examine also whether there are prospects for a change in the coming future, because the new prime minister has responded to our prime minister's hopes in a positive way.

How do you assess the situation, Mr. Mehrotra? You are in the Foreign Office, you have intimate knowledge and acquaintance with foreign policy-making and decision-making processes. You always had some acquaintance with Pakistan developments. How do you view the situation? Do you think it is not wise and prudent to hope for an improvement, or do you think we must keep on hoping against what is necessary?

[Mehrotra] I think the relations between India and Pakistan have reached a point where if we lose hope we might lose all, because when the relations touch the rock bottom, the hope thrives. And, therefore, the best thing that we can do under the circumstances is to hope for a better future. This hope holds some degree of substance. One—the elections in Pakistan have been free and fair and they affirm in a certain way the commitment of Pakistan toward remaining a democratic state and be in the midst of the democracies of the world. Now, that itself is advantageous to us because there has been a feeling in India very largely shared that like the people of India, the people of Pakistan would want to have peace with India in the interest of development and subcontinental harmony. We might have reached a point where people are tired of conflict on both sides of the border. And, the conflict has got to come to an end, some day or the other. Now, therefore one feels that if democratic forces assert themselves and democracy stabilizes in Pakistan, then the voice of the people has a greater chance to be heard and to make its impact on the policies of the nation.

[Viswam] Quite right. Prof. Advani, we have been saying repeatedly over the last two, three decades two things: One is that a strong and stable Pakistan is in the interest of India, and secondly, it is always more productive and potentially more rewarding to do business with a democratically elected government in Pakistan. Now, Mr. Mehrotra was also saying the fact that now there is democracy there after free and fair elections. How do you view the situation. Do you agree with Mr. Mehrotra that we should keep hoping for an improvement in bilateral relations?

[Advani] I do agree, but there is one difficulty. It is true that during this election campaign Kashmir, for instance, was not a major issue. Anti-India campaign was also not part of it. It was on the low-key, very low-key. I think it was not really highlighted by both sides—the two major parties. These are very, very positive things. And, if you look at the results of the elections, those who would put Kashmir and anti-India campaign in the center of things like various fundamentalist, religious organizations which participated in the elections, they were defeated. They got only three seats which I think is very dismal performance for them. But at the same time, the same leaders who did not articulate Kashmir and all that, when it comes to dealing with India, that is the only thing they talk. So, what is happening? Everyone gets a bit intrigued by this that it is not part of the electoral politics, then what it is part of? And, the suspicion naturally arises that perhaps India-Pakistan relations are a subject which are the private special preserve of the Army and the ISI [Inter-Service Intelligence]. Now, if this situation prevails or this is a reality of the Pakistani situation, then, I think even the best results that have come out in free and fair elections and the defeat of the fundamentalist forces, even that does not really make the picture very optimistic.

[Viswam] Quite. You know, Rashid, it is generally one of the points made whenever the subject of India-Pakistan relations is discussed is that even the best-intentioned prime minister, democratically elected prime minister, will have some limitations because he will have to govern his India policy not on an independent basis, but consistent with what the military apparatus wants, he may have to do. [sentence as heard] Now, how far do you agree with this theory and do you think it will operate in the case of Benazir Bhutto also, because you remember in the past when Rajiv Gandhi went to Karachi for the

SAARC [South Asian Association For Regional Cooperation] Summit, the tone of the interaction or what she said to him and what he said to her created enormous hopes in this country, but they were belied.

[Rashid] I think, we should not be too euphoric at this stage. It is true Pakistani democracy is maturing, but we are not out of the woods there yet. Not only the indecisive, inconclusive results we have had, but we do not know whether in fact the change to political democracy is real at this stage. We have to watch. We all congratulate ourselves by saying fine, they are coming along on the path of democracy. But remember it was an election held under the aegis of the Army and, therefore, the Army is not out of politics yet. Therefore, whatever else said you have said around the table, this was strengthened by the fact that the Army is still playing a very key role. It is manipulating the threads—the strings. And, I think, any expectations at this stage—I am not saying that it should be ruled out altogether—but any expectation at this stage that because the people are weary of poor India- Pakistan relations, poor cooperation between India and Pakistan, though this may be genuine and the fact that this is reelected in electoral politics should not make us too euphoric. That is my thinking.

[Viswam] Well, there is no question of being euphoric. Otherwise, only point is that since it is very aptly said it is better to jaw jaw than war war if there is any avenue or possibility of talking. Now see, our prime minister could not go to attend the CHOGM [Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting] Summit, but Benazir Bhutto did. And, on the floor of the summit, she has said that she would like to respond positively to the offer of dialog made by Mr. Narasimha Rao. And, she has said that she welcomes this opportunity. Now, this is all very well, because this is not the first time she has said this. When she was prime minister she had said this. Nawaz Sharif, when he was prime minister, he said this. Now, we were talking about this general perception in India that there is another force which governs the political setup there and that is the military administration, military apparatus.

Now, we have all in this country for the last week or so been very concerned about a series of developments that have taken place in Srinagar leading to violence and strict action, retaliatory action by the armed forces and security forces and all that. But to my mind, I see a very clear hand of the so-called undercover agencies operating in Pakistan. I see the clear hand of ISI, Professor Advani mentioned. I see the clear hand of the military apparatus in this development. And, would not you agree that the way the whole crisis in Srinagar erupted, it was not accidental?

[Advani] I would on the other hand like to assert that there is a degree of coincidence. It cannot be altogether unplanned. There is the fact that CHOGM was to be held. It was also known that the elections will be over in Pakistan before that date—the date of the election of the new prime minister, the testing of the majority for any candidate for premiership preceded the CHOGM and it was possible for their prime minister to go there. Now, naturally if the militants had to show their hand this was the occasion, and Pakistan, connected with this militancy—the world knows about it—would have done everything possible to see that it reaches critical pitch, and, therefore, I would say that Rashid Saheb is correct in saying the word of caution that you have noted is the right thing to do. The fact of the matter, however, is that opportunities for diplomatic maneuvering toward a solution arrives in the midst of problems. They do not arrive all the time when the problems have vanished, when there is nothing to negotiate and work upon. Here is a situation in which the elections are over, a new prime minister has been elected and you have a very warm message from the prime minister of India saying I want nothing but good relations between the two countries and we are ready for a dialogue, and dialogue could be on any subject, including Kashmir, and that has been mentioned.

[Viswam] Prof. Advani, one thing, which I think, we should also take note of which is that there is, of late, in the last few months, definitely an extraordinary upsurge of interest in Kashmir, particularly on the human rights issue by external forces. And particularly, for example, the United States is taking a great deal of interest and that interest has manifested itself even during the present crisis in relation to Hazratbal shrine. I think we could usefully discuss two aspects of this. Firstly, was there anything else we could have done in Hazratbal? Personally, I think we have handled the situation very tactfully, very patiently, and with considerable imagination. And secondly, the way the things [changes thought] the crisis has developed also strengthens the feeling that even the militants are like puppets. They are being pulled to this side and that side. Could you agree with this assessment?

[Advani] Well, this is true that the militants are not a monolithic entity. In fact, there are divisions among them, maybe, even differences on the goals they want to achieve. So, these differences have always been there. There are a number of groups. Otherwise, there would not be so many groups among the militants. Those who are pro-Pakistan also have many groups. So, this kind of thing has been there and it has never been a monolithic thing. But what I think [is], to my mind, Hazratbal, being a very sensitive place, it should have been walled very carefully. And this thing should not have been allowed to happen. After all, Hazratbal is not a very big place. The shrine is small. We have been dealing with the situation in a very patient way. And this is the only way. Otherwise, we would be playing in the hands of those who have engineered the whole thing. If you take any precipitate action, which is, I think, uncalled for in the situation, I think, patience is the answer to this.

[Viswam] Rashid, what do you say?

[Rashid] I agree with Advani Saheb. Provoking the security forces was one of the calculations and intentions

of the demonstrators. Because, you see the whole city was under curfew and these people decided to defy the curfew and go. In leaving that aside and returning once again to our subject of Indo-Pakistan relations in the direction, it is likely to take anything [as heard]. You see, apart from the fact that terrorism is one of the issues, Pakistan has been encouraging terrorism in Punjab. It has been encouraging subversive militancy in Kashmir and that is not the only bottleneck toward improvement of relations. There is the nuclear issue and there are other pending issues like Siachen. And, you see, you could go on. If there is a broad understanding, if there is a decision taken that let us get closer, don't you think that all these other issues can be resolved?

[Advani] No, there are two ways in which differences between nations or conflicts between countries can be resolved. One is that you take the most controversial of them and try to resolve it and then the atmosphere eases and the rest is simpler. The other is that you find the controversy so deeply embroiled. You try for a year, you try for two years, you try for a decade, you try for two decades, you try for half a century, you don't resolve it like our conflict with China on the border issue. Then, you move on with the change of tactics to resolve the differences. The idea is to resolve the differences and then you say all right, let us move on from the center to the periphery. Let us see how far we can go in improvement of relations all around and then tackle the central issue, if that issue has been coming in the way of better relations. Let us keep it under a (?slight) lid and move forward in many other directions. Most countries that have been in conflict short of resorting to war have adopted this tactic. Now, in case of India and Pakistan, even war had occurred and it has not resolved the differences. So, the only course open to us, I think in diplomatic parlance, would be through negotiations widening the area of agreement and narrowing the differences further and further, further and further in the meantime and see where and how a solution can emerge which would be agreeable to both of us.

[Viswam] In other words, you must initiate talks for having talks. You see, that is the beginning. But, you know, Prof. Advani, this again will come back to one basic difficulty where Indo- Pakistan relations are concerned. One is that while it is possible to improve relations with democratically elected governments, there is a force operating which constantly obstructs it. Now, for example, let us have talks. Foreign secretary-level talks have taken place; defense secretary-level talks have taken place; commerce secretary-level talks have taken place. Some broad understanding, as Mr. Mehrotra said, the areas of agreement have been identified. But then, nothing has happened. Nothing tangible happens. Why? Even these are all ordinary things like, for example, I am a journalist and I am very much interested in exchange of, you know, newspapers—Pakistan newspapers coming here, Indian newspapers going there. I am interested in correspondents being posted there, their correspondents being posted here. Would these have nothing to do? You know, basically (?it) is a larger issue of bilateral relations. These would arise from a question of degree of trust and understanding. When that degree of trust and understanding is not there, the ISI [Inter-services intelligence] will constantly go on creating crisis situation for us like they have done in Hazratbal. Won't you agree with this postulate?

[Advani] No, I agree. You see, but the problem here is; there are two problems really. One is the absence of trust between India and Pakistan.

[Viswam, interrupting] That is what I have mentioned.

[Advani] It has been there all the time.

[Viswam] Yes.

[Advani] It is the main cause. The Kashmir is not the cause, or Siachen is not the cause, or even the nuclear issue is not the cause. They are consequences of this lack of trust between India and Pakistan since the inception. This is the basic problem. But, you see, the other problem is that the power structure in Pakistan which is not in our hands. There is a power structure in Pakistan which was built up since the 1950's in which the armed forces have acquired a custodial role or a controlling role. When it is not controlling, it is custodial. But it is very much there. Now that role can sustain itself only in a milieu in which there are tensions between Pakistan and its neighbor. This is the real problem. This is very tough nut to crack. Now, how do we resolve this problem? [interruptions] But it is not in Benazir's hands solely. Therefore, when we started we said, well, let us watch. Is she really able to get rid of the incubus of Army control over development. That I would like to add one note on the Hazratbal matter. I think, a mixture of not as religion and politics as we see there, but terrorism and politics; terrorism and religion. This is very, you know, difficult to accept anywhere in the world. And I am sure the Indian Government is proceeding with due caution. It is engaged in a struggle of attrition. It wants to defeat those people. It is only the ISI elements there inside the shrine who may be so cynical as to want to destroy the shrine. Nobody else has any interest. There is no motivation for anybody else to destroy and I hope they don't make that mistake.

[Viswam] I don't think they are going to.

[Mehrotra] Well, what the ISI directive to the militants that it has inside the shrine is, it is difficult to gauge vis-a-vis the holy relic. But, it is obvious to me that our security forces were under very strict and clear instructions to act with utmost restraint; and if they had to open fire, I must submit that they would have been left with no other option, except doing that. Their hands were forced to do that. In a situation like this, the shrine has to be protected. Now, if you have a mass of people, a mass upsurge going and forcing the security out of it, and some people from outside—the representatives of the same body which you fear is represented inside—had some other designs, then how would the security forces

prevent it? Therefore, the security forces, I think, in this situation cannot be blamed. They were moving very cautiously. They were not taking any precipitate action. They did not open fire on the militants. They were constantly asking them to lay down their arms and help out a solution which would bring them out and in peace; but, in the meantime, the situation was endangered further by this, by certain militant elements of the same ilk from outside, leading a demonstration of a kind that we just talked ....

[Viswam, interrupting] While, we each here can understand and appreciate this, the point is one of the elements of Pakistani ISI or whoever it is masterminding this, the strategy has been to internationalize Kashmir; and I think whether we like it or not, this issue is of such grave import that the issue gets internationalized, whether we like it or not. To this extent that everybody begins to wonder; they begin to offer gratuitous advice to India, what India should do and how it should be done, all this. Now, we have maintained two things. One is that there is a Simla agreement between the two countries. It forms a very good framework for negotiations and for building understanding; and two, we have also been taking this view, and very correctly, because Kashmir is an integral part of India, that Kashmir is not negotiable. I mean, anything else you want to talk about which is beyond these points I am making. So this, as I said, all the time Pakistan wants only to internationalize the Kashmir issue. Now, don't you think there is there itself an inbuilt, inherent difficulty for us, because it becomes again a wall which we try to break and it will not break. Now, United Nations General Assembly session is coming and already there are threats or warnings or anything coming from Islamabad, saying that that issue will be raised. In fact, they are going to sponsor a resolution on the subject. So what do you think, Prof. Advani, should be our strategy?

[Advani] Well, you see the other unfortunate thing is that Pakistan has spent much of its diplomatic energy over the years in complaining against us to the whole world about Kashmir; and we have spent much of our diplomatic energy in explaining our position. So, I think, I suppose that after so many decades both sides should get tired of this. [laughter]. And, perhaps, we can turn a new leaf. Why should we waste our energies on this thing which is not going to lead anywhere? Rather we could use it for productive purposes to help the people of our countries to build better economy, to build a better future for our people. I think, if you have not learned it after 45 years, then I think perhaps we are incapable of learning. I think, some day this will dawn on people [interruptions] that it is a waste of energy ....

[Rashid, interrupting] I am sorry, my only point there is that we are too sensitive being a democratic country about foreign public opinion. You take China, for instance, it has got now as many linkages almost as we have with the West. Every time the West turns on the screws against it, China refuses to yield. You have to be very thick-skinned. You have to brave it out, because we are not doing anything that is hurting our conscience. That, I think, should be our guide. I am afraid Indian policy on that has not been very consistent. I agree with Advani that for 45 years we have been trying to explain to (?them) and for 45 years we have not been able to do anything, international opinion. [sentence as heard] So, what are we worried about? We have to act according to our own conscience? What does our democratic conscience say in this country? And that is the final thesis.

[Mehrotra] Yes, it is very, very clear. I think Rashid Bhai [Brother Rashid] has made the very right point that we have to act according to our conscience and in respect of Kashmir, India's conscience is so very clear. India did not grab Kashmir; India did not ask Kashmir to accede to India by force. Of its own will and volition here is a state, like other states, that comes and accedes to India. It becomes an integral part of India. India is committed to defend that part as any other part of India. That commitment will remain. Now, even in regard to a resolution of the problem with the militants, the country is acting with a great deal of restraint. There is unanimity on the question that if there is a violation of human rights, people should be brought before the court of law and punished; and that punishment has been inflicted. But the national policy does not allow the violation of human rights in any manner (?whatsoever). Well, we have our press free to emphasize what ....[interruptions].

[Viswam] We have independent judiciary.

[Mehrotra] We have an independent judiciary.

[Viswam] And now we have a human rights ....

[Mehrotra, interrupting] Nobody's else's standards have to apply to us except our own conscience and our own conscience in respect of Kashmir being clear, I think, we should fight this battle and ....[interruptions] There is no human right to secession. That is what I am saying.

[Viswam] Now, we have our human rights commission itself and all these things. Any way, gentlemen, I think we have agreed on couple of points. We welcome the establishment of a democracy in Pakistan. We welcome it very much. It is too soon to gauge the direction in which Pakistani policy toward India will take. We should be a bit optimistic and be prepared for the worst. And we should not lose our optimism but, at the same time, we have to maintain a very, very cautious and watchful eye on how the response is from across the border. Thank you very much, gentlemen.

[Panelists] Thank you.

Article Criticizes U.S. Foreign Policy

BK2610123993 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 15 Oct 93 p 13

[K. Natwar Singh article]

[Text] President Bill Clinton in his address to the United Nations General Assembly in New York on September

27, 1993, included Kashmir among the major trouble spots in the world. By doing so, he inflicted on India an unnecessary public diplomatic bruise. We must, however, take an overall long-term view of Indo-U.S. relations and should neither minimise nor maximise the significance of this "mischaracterisation". The Clinton administration's grasp and understanding of foreign affairs inspires little confidence from Bosnia to Somalia to Georgia.

The U.S. President said, "thus, as we marvel at this era's promise of new peace, we must also recognise that serious threats remain. Bloody ethnic, religious and civil wars rage from Angola to the Caucasus to Kashmir".

Attention needs to be drawn to something far more important and worrying than President Clinton said in his UN address. He was forthright about America's global role in the post-Cold War era. That, to my mind was far more serious and needs to be studied and carefully analysed. Mr. Clinton declared, "Let me start by being clear about where the United States stands. The United States occupies a unique position in world affairs today... The United States intends to remain engaged and to lead". Here he clearly rejected the sage advice of America's most distinguished and sensible foreign policy pundit, Professor George Kennan, Professor Emeritus at Princeton University, who in his recent book "Around the Cragged Hill" recommends for his country, "a very modest and restrained foreign policy, directed to the curtailment of external undertakings and involvements wherever this is in any way possible, and to the avoidance of any assumption of new ones". Prof. Kennan also says that the U.S. needs less, not more, external involvement.

The Clinton gospel—"we intend to lead"—has disturbing ramifications. Let me quote George Kennan again, "I should make it clear that I am wholly and emphatically rejecting any and all messianic concepts of America's role in the world, rejecting the image of ourselves as teachers and redeemers to the rest of humanity, rejecting the illusion of unique and superior virtue on our part...."

When Mr. Clinton succeeded Mr. George Bush as President, there was no great excitement in India but certainly an expectation that the new Democratic administration would look at India with fairness and show understanding of the complexities of Indo-U.S. relations. So far this has not happened in most areas of our bilateral relations.

The 10-month "India Record" of the Clinton Government indicates that Indo-U.S. relations, as seen from Washington, are not on a steady course. A critical appraisal of the actions, assumptions and postulates of Mr. Clinton's Government indicate the following:

(1) An unfocussed view of India.

(2) Jettisoning the Simla Agreement.

(3) Needling India on the NPT [Nonproliferation Treaty].

(4) An enlightened and sympathetic understanding of India's economic reforms.

(5) Low priority to India and our concerns.

It will, therefore, be seen that American policy towards India has both negative and positive aspects and is not free from contradictions.

The unfocused view is no doubt responsible for Mr. Clinton's "mischaracterisation" of the Kashmir situation. If he were to objectively study the history of the origins of the so- called Kashmir question, he would have come to a different conclusion. His closest adviser on India no longer considers the Simla Agreement relevant. This is a major departure from the view held by the Bush Administration.

It seems the ground is being prepared to bring Kashmir on to the international agenda. This could be done in several ways. The obvious one would be to raise Kashmir under the new human rights mantra [formula], in the General Assembly, the Security Council, NAM [Nonaligned Movement] etc. The OIC will do Pakistan's bidding. It has 51 members at the UN. Our diplomats face a stiff and sustained challenge. Mr. Clinton's intentions were no doubt honourable but his reference to Kashmir undoubtedly gave comfort to Pakistan and encouraged the representatives of the Organisation of Islamic Countries (OIC) at the United Nations to take India to task on our human rights record in Kashmir.

Strange things happen at the UN. Perhaps someone will also point out to the OIC the grave violations of human rights by a majority of its members. They are in no position to point a finger at India. At the same time India must restore normalcy in the Kashmir Valley and produce an acceptable political instrumentality. It is too serious a matter to be left to well meaning retired Generals. We no longer have the Socialist block and the Soviet Union to help us out. Unlike Pakistan, we have to go it alone .

The Clinton administration's India score cards makes depressing reading. Within a week of assuming the Presidency, Mr. Clinton shifted Ambassador Pickering from New Delhi to Moscow. The man had been in India only for five months. For more than six months the post of U.S. Ambassador in India has been lying vacant. John Malott's deeply offensive and maladroit performance in May this year did no good to Indo-U.S. relations. That he was allowed to get away with it, reflects poorly on us. He would have fared differently in Beijing or Singapore. Similarly India's mild reaction to U.S. armtwisting on the Cryogenic rockets only encouraged the Americans to turn the heat on 301 is another irritant. Mr. Warren Christopher has not deemed it necessary to visit India so far, although he has been in the neighbourhood several times.

In God's name, what right has the U.S. to lecture India on the NPT? Now that the Cold War is over, what logical justification can the Americans offer for retaining their nuclear arsenal? Rajiv Gandhi's 1988 plan to denuclearise the world still awaits positive American response.

How should India react? Because react India must. India should do so with sobriety and dignity, bearing in mind the familiar virtues of understatement and restraint, which make diplomatic intercourse both agreeable and civilised. At the same time, India should guard against a tendency to allow these virtues to paralyse the conduct of a creative and forceful diplomacy and the formulation of a coherent and meaningful foreign policy. The bottom line is that Kashmir is not negotiable.

Only in one major area can we derive comfort. Finance Minister Manmohan Singh has just returned from Washington after participating in the annual meeting of the Board of Governors of the World Bank and the IMF. He received undiluted praise for his work from all present. The Americans went out of their way to express their appreciation. Ms. Joan Sparrow of the State Department called on him. Secretary of the Treasury Lloyd S. Bentsen was fully supportive and said so.

In India's case, unfortunately there is a dark cloud to every silver lining. Unless the nation puts its administrative and political acts together, the economic take off will in real terms, continue to delude her.

Netherlands Prime Minister Arrives on State Visit

BK2710035593 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] The prime minister of Netherlands, Mr. Ruud Lubbers, arrived in New Delhi last night on a two-day state visit. He is accompanied by the foreign minister, Professor P. Kooijmans, and a delegation of top businessmen and industrialists. Mr. Lubbers will be given a ceremonial reception at Rashtrapati Bhavan [president's house] this morning. He will visit Rajghat and lay a wreath at the samadhi [cremation site] of Mahatma Gandhi. He will hold talks with the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, and meet ministers of finance, commerce, industry, external affairs, human resources development, and the speaker of the Lok Sabha during his stay in the capital. He will also call on the president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma.

Rao Receives Netherlands' Lubbers

BK2710095693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] The prime minister of the Netherlands, Mr. Ruud Lubbers, said his country will play an important role in strengthening relations between the European Community and India. Talking to newspersons at Rashtrapati Bhavan [president's house] this morning, Mr. Lubbers said he will discuss bilateral relations and global issues with Indian leaders.

Earlier, a warm reception was accorded to the visiting dignitary in the fore court of the Rashtrapati Bhavan. The prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, and several of his cabinet colleagues were present on the occasion.

Mr. Lubbers will call on the president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, during his two-day visit. He will hold talks with the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, and meet ministers of finance, commerce, industries, external affairs, human resource development, and the Speaker of the Lok Sabha.

Mr. Ruud Lubbers will visit the Rajghat and lay a wreath at the samadhi [cremation site] of Mahatma Gandhi.

The foreign minister of Netherlands, Professor P.H. Kooijmans, and a delegation of top businessmen and industrialists are accompanying Mr. Ruud Lubbers.

Iran

Deputy Foreign Minister Views Baghdad Visit

LD2610174693 Tehran IRNA in English 1456 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 26, IRNA—Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif on Tuesday said his visit to Baghdad was aimed at making preparations for the forthcoming meeting between the Iranian and Iraqi foreign ministers and also to discuss problems caused by the two wars in the region.

Zarif, the deputy for international affairs, added that the first deputy Iraqi foreign minister, Sa'd 'Abd-al-Majid al-Faysal, will come to Iran to follow up the talks.

"Human problems arising from the two wars in the region is a major concern in our relations with Iraq," Zarif said. "Therefore, the status of persons who are in either country against their will and who are willing to return to their home country was thoroughly discussed with the Iraqi officials."

Although Baghdad continues to hold on to its previous stance that there are no Iranian prisoners of war in Iraq, the Iranian delegation offered a proposal that may solve the issue of POWs which is the main cause of distrust between the two countries, he said.

According to the proposal, a joint committee would be set up to locate the bodies of soldiers killed in action and each side would provide the other with a list of unregistered POWs believed to be held by the other country.

On some Western media commentaries on Baghdad doubting Tehran's sincerity in improvement of mutual ties, Zarif said after the 1980-88 imposed war and the subsequent developments Tehran, too, is not sure of Baghdad's hosnesty in this regard.

"Iran's foreign policy is based on good neighborliness with all its neighbors. If the two countries demonstrate good

intention and political will, there is a possibility of narrowing the differences and moving towards cooperation in accordance with international regulations..." he said.

Zarif also dismissed a U.S. claim that Tehran was violating the U.N. sanctions and embargoes against Iraq. He said that the Islamic Republic of Iran has always respected the U.N. Security Council resolutions.

In response to a question on Baghdad's request from Iran to return some Iraqi planes kept in this country, Zarif said that this was in conformity to several U.N. resolutions regarding international embargoes against Iraq. Therefore, he said, the Islamic Republic, from legal point of view is not ready to become engaged in this discussion.

He said the issue of pilgrimage to the holy Islamic sites in Iran and Iraq by the nationals of the two countries was also discussed by the two sides. "God willing, the matter will be dicussed in detail in the next round of talks between the two countries," he pointed out.

On the future of Tehran-Baghdad relations, the deputy foreign minister said this depended on the good intention of the Iraqi Government to settle the existing disputes and the attitude of the international community towards Iraq.

Six Killed in MKO Attack 'Last Week'

LD2710145093 Tehran IRNA in English 1418 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 27, IRNA—Members of the terrorist Mojahedin e-Khalq Organization (MKO) launched several assaults on Iranian territory on Iran-Iraq border last week, Radio Baghdad has announced.

The radio quoted an MKO statement, issued in Paris, as saying that the MKO members set 15 vehicles on fire in the assaults.

MKO members, arrested in border areas, during their attack over the past two weeks, had disclosed the intention of the MKO leader on launching assaults against the Iranian border areas. However, MKO has denied it.

MKO sporadic assualts on the border areas left six people killed, a hospital source in Kermanshah Province said yesterday. He added that a 12-year-old girl and a 63-year-old man succumbed to their injuries after 32 days of hospitalization.

The two were from a village in Mehran region, where two children had earlier been killed dastardly by the MKO elements.

Students of the 'Maysam Guidance School' in the border town of Mehran, held a funeral ceremony for their classmate today.

A banner on the entrance of the school reads, "Death to Monafeqin agents of U.S."

Commentary Views President's Trip to Baku

LD2710134193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1100 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] With the visit to the Republic of Azerbaijan of Mr. Hasheri-Rafsanjani, the esteemed president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, a new chapter has opened in relations between Tehran and Baku. It is expected that the presidents of the two countries will sign about 40 documents of agreement during this trip and leap forward toward widening relations between the two countries and serving the interests of the two nations.

Even though relations between Iran and Azerbaijan moved toward expansion and improvement from the very first days of Azerbaijan's independence, the meeting of the leaders of the two countries and agreement at the highest official level displays a brighter prospect for relations between the two neighboring countries.

Today's warm and sincere relations between Iran and Azerbaijan are the results of Iran's clear policies in expanding all-round cooperation with Azerbaijan without any kind of interference in the internal affairs of that country. They are also the result of the positive and humanitarian measures taken by Tehran in relation to the last two years' developments in Azerbaijan.

Within the declared framework of its policy, Iran has consistently condemned Armenia's invasion of Azerbaijan's territory and its occupation of about one tenth of the territory of that country. Iran has also called on Armenia to respect the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and to resolve differences by peaceful political means. Alongside this policy, Iran has never refrained from carrying out its humanitarian duties toward the Muslim people of Azerbaijan. It has tried to lessen the sufferings of Azerbaijani victims of war by sending humanitarian aid to the Nakhichevan region and also by setting up camps for Azerbaijani refugees on the other side of the Aras river.

These stances and measures taken by Iran are fundamental and important factors in the expansion of relations between the two countries. Together with these political issues, which bring the two neighboring countries closer together, Iran and Azerbaijan also share some profound historical, religious, and cultural bonds. [passage omitted]

Last year [ending 20 March 1993] approximately 300,000 Iranian nationals traveled to Azerbaijan and, in turn, Iran was host to tens of thousands of Azeris who visited the holy shrines in Qom and Mashhad. In the economic field too, the grounds for cooperation between the two neighboring countries are vast and more specific than in other Muslim-populated Central Asian countries. Last year, trade between the two countries

amounted to over $400 million, higher than Iran's trade with other Muslim-populated Central Asian republics. [passage omitted]

Up to now, Iran has, within the framework of bilateral cooperation, given expert assistance to Azerbaijan in the field of rice and sugar-beet cultivation. [passage omitted] Iran also has vast technical facilities in the field of oil and can set in motion this sector in Azerbaijan's economy and release the other economic potentials of that country.

In any case, the trip to Baku by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and the delegation accompanying him demonstrates the importance and sensitivity which Islamic Iran attaches to its relations with Azerbaijan. At the same time, it shows that Islamic Iran does not see any limits in widening its relations with Baku and is willing to benefit positively from all opportunities to improve, expand, and raise the level of relations. This will surely benefit both countries and its positive consequences will lead to more peace, security, and tranquillity in the region.

Advantages of Ties With Asian States Assessed

LD2610144193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1050 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] The presidents of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Kazakhstan have signed nine agreements relating to customs, banking, transport, transit of cargo, and consular relations, heralding new prospects of cooperation between the two countries.

With shared historical, cultural, and religious features, Iran and Kazakhstan possess a strong potential for extensive cooperation. Now, following the visit of our country's president to Almaty and the signing of the said agreements, it is hoped that this potential will be realized.

The geographical proximity of the two countries is another positive factor paving the way for the establishment of road, air, and sea links. Iran and Kazakhstan are both Caspian littoral countries and, with the expansion of their fleets and ports, they can establish direct links for exchanges. In addition, the connection of our railways and roads to the transportation networks of Central Asian countries will give those land-locked countries access to open seas and the Persian Gulf, as well as linking our country's transportation network to all the countries of the region and Europe.

The expansion of political cooperation and economic exchanges between Iran and Central Asian countries will, in view of the economic structure and the development level of those countries, not only benefit bilateral relations, but will also be to the advantage of all the countries of the region.

It is not a secret that since the collapse of the Soviet Union, the West has been looking at Central Asia as an ideal consumer market and a warehouse full of raw material. By pursuing this line of thinking, Western countries are now exploiting policies that overlook the independence of the countries of that region, with the result that Central Asian and Caucasian countries have become embroiled in crises and disputes.

Of course, the point cannot be overlooked that, throughout its 74-year existence, the communist system of the former Soviet Union prevented cooperation and contact between the Muslim nations of the region. Now, however, when winds of change have blown down the steel walls, past historical links, a common culture and, most important of all, a single religion will be able to make up for all the lost opportunities and revive the former cooperation between the Muslim communities of the region.

Islamic Iran, with its geopolitical situation in the region and in the world of Islam and with its beneficial political experience, which is one of the treasures gained through the Islamic revolution, can assist the Muslim republics of Central Asia in preserving their independence and help them in resolving the problems arising from the ongoing fundamental changes in their countries.

Visa, Passport Accord With Kazakhstan Detailed

LD2710100693 Tehran IRNA in English 0930 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Almaty Oct. 27, IRNA—Iranian and Kazakh nationals holding diplomatic or service passports can visit both countries or enter in transit with no need to entry visa.

To this end, a letter of understanding was signed between foreign ministers of the two countries during President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit to Kazakhstan, ended Tuesday.

According to the agreement, the above-mentioned passengers can have a maximum stay of 30 days otherwise, they have to obtain an entry visa.

Meanwhile, citizens of the two countries can enter, exit or transit each country through border checkpoints while observing national rules and regulations of both countries.

Crew of the national airlines of both Iran and Kazakhstan, who are on board of normal or charter flights between the two countries, do not need entry visa.

The memorandum was signed for an unspecific period of time and will be enforced after 30 days.

Seminar on Iranian Economy Held in Hamburg

LD2610115193 Tehran IRNA in English 1025 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Bonn, Oct. 26, IRNA—A seminar on Iran's economy was held in Hamburg Monday and was

attended by Iranian and German officials as well as owners of industries and companies. In a luncheon given in honor of the Iranian delegation, Chairman of Hamburg Chamber of Commerce Klaus Asche said Iran was an important partner for Germany and Hamburg and that they attached great importance to their economic cooperation with Iran within the framework of joint ventures and transfer of technical know-how.

Chairman of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Mines 'Ali Naqi Khamushi referring to Iran's foreign commitments said that reconstruction program of the country was a major factor increasing Iran's imports.

While Iran's imports amounted to dlrs. 10 billion million in the Iranian calendar year 1367 (March 21, 1988-March 20, 1989), it surpassed dlrs. 25,000 last year. [sentence and figures as received]

Due to dropping oil prices in recent years, Iran's oil revenues cut by drls. 6 billion annually, he said. Furthermore, Khamushi noted, fluctuating dollar rates also affected Iran's revenues.

Khamushi said that Iran's imports worth over dlrs. 300 billion in the past 20 years and that Germany had been Iran's main trade partner over this period.

He noted that Iran's total imports during the second 5-year development plan (to start 1994) would most probably exceed dlrs. 100 billion adding that German share in Iran's imports depended on its cooperation.

Chairman of Iran-German Chamber of Commerce and Industries Marc Landau said in 1992 Iran was Germany's third trade partner outside Europe. He added that talks were underway with Iranian officials for the joint venture in several well-known German companies.

Meanwhile the Iranian co-chairman of the chamber, Khanbodaghi, said Iran was willing and decisive to become a centre for exchange of goods in the region. To this end, the Iranian government is codifying relevant laws and regulations.

In addition to Iranian participants, over 200 German tradesmen attended the seminar.

Larijani Interviewed on Relations With U.S.

NC2310082193 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 5 Oct 93 p 7

[Interview with Dr. Mohammad Javad Larijani, Majles deputy from Tehran and head of the Majles Research Center, by an unidentified correspondent; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [KEYHAN] In your opinion, what are the practical ways to confront hegemonism by arrogance?

[Larijani] This topic has quite a few aspects. If struggle against hegemonism means a struggle against domination, then it extends to economic and development plans and even military policies. As far as the domination of one country of another is concerned, we should say that in the world today a relatively new theory of domination has been propounded and propagated by American statesmen and political ideologues, and their action plan is based on this. Of course, how successful this policy will be is another issue. But what is definite is that a government like the U.S. Government is working on this idea in coordination with other governments.

In short, the meaning of this approach is that peace in its true sense will not be established in the world unless a universal system is established, and the issue of peace arises when discussing this view. [passage omitted]

They believe that we should move toward a universal system. But naturally, the question is who would lead such a system? They believe that we should not be idealists about this. We should see how various countries are rated and classified; and their criteria for rating a country are its military potentials, industrial progress, and advancement of its political and social structures. Their theory is that the world should be managed by a "club of developed countries." This club may consist of the G-7 members, or some other European countries may be added to this list, but it will have a limited membership of no more than 10 or 15 members. And from the Americans' point of view, the most advanced member of this club—that is, themselves—should be the leader.

They do not only claim to be advanced in the military and industrial fields; they claim to have created the world's best social structure and that the liberal democratic system that prevails in America does not exist even in Europe, despite its power and influence. Therefore, they believe that the American people and government have a historic role for the future. They believe that during the Cold War this historic role was to lead the struggle against Marxism and that they destroyed Marxism. In one of his speeches in 1992, Bush said: Don't think that Marxism declined on its own. Marxism was defeated after a long struggle in the Cold War, and those whose fathers were sacrificed in Vietnam and in other places were the victors of the Cold War, so naturally they should be the ones to profit from that war. Bush explicitly stated in this speech that the West should manage the world and that the United States should lead the West. Therefore, the idea that is being propagated in the world today is that:

1. We have a universal world system; and
2. The world should be managed by a club of developed countries.

They say that countries like Iran, Sudan, etc., lack industry, a civil structure, liberal thinking, and experience in democracy. They believe that these countries are unable even to solve their own problems, let alone world problems; that these countries lack the ability to manufacture their own goods and cars; and that they are unable to grant freedom to their peoples. Therefore, these countries need a guardian. They say: If these countries want to progress, we should help them! If they want to improve their planning and budget organization,

we should send experts to help them. If they want good economic plans, the World Bank should help them. And if they want to progress in science and technology, they should help them.

They believe that countries that are capable of managing the world should join this club, but this club needs a leader and only America is cut out for that. This is the political theory the Americans base their various methods on and use to guide their foreign policy and behavior in the world.

It is very important for us to understand the conduct of countries on the international level because a good understanding of world events depends on it. We should know what motivates other countries. And I think that we can explain all U.S. foreign and even domestic policies with this theory.

The issue of hegemony stems from this theory, too. There is no great difference in the way hegemonism is interpreted today and the way it was interpreted yesterday. For example, Napoleon and Hitler tried to conquer the world. They did not consult their people; they sent their armies to conquer any country they wanted to. This method differed from that of the Marxists, who promised the moon and the stars and who formed liberation movements. And today the Americans are using a language that can be understood better.

The Americans point at conflicts and at underdevelopment, and they tell those underdeveloped countries that want to progress that they should have a guardian, that a limited number of countries are able to play the role of guardian, and that this limited number of countries should form a "club of world guardians." I think that this is the idea behind neo-hegemonism; we should learn as much as possible about it, study its repercussions, and see what stances should be adopted against it.

[KEYHAN] How do you assess this idea?

[Larijani] First of all, we should see where this idea's flaws are. The Americans have resorted to all the world's pundits throughout history to develop a theory on which to base this idea. [passage omitted]

The problem is that our intellectuals have not devoted much thought to this issue—that is, the basis of neo-hegemonism and its dynamics. Merely cursing it and so on is not enough. We should listen to what they have to say, because of the very fact that they may fool many people. There is another aspect of this concept: the theory of universal integration [preceding two words in English], which means that world affairs take their own specific course and a clever person will find his place in the world. Therefore, they say that the logical countries are those that think: Well, this is the world's trend, so we should determine where we stand and act accordingly. And countries that talk big and bite off more than they can chew are supposedly illogical. Now we should see how these various categories are determined. They rate each country according to military strength, technology, and its share in overall world industrial production and determine each country's status on that basis. If you get a high score, then you can become a member of the world club, and if you are ranked low your best chance is to stay on the margin and to try to grow there. [passage omitted]

[KEYHAN] How do you interpret the theory of a new world order that the Americans have in mind?

[Larijani] The biggest problem with that theory is its lack of justice. In other words, peace is one of the boons and we want a unified world rule, but one that is based on justice. In other words, even if we do away with war in the world but have a unified world rule that is based on the wrong principles, then the ills of this system will not be less than if we had wars. In our opinion, unified world rule is the ideal, but not under American leadership. Unified world rule that means doing away with justice is not favorable. Liberal thought lacks the concept of justice and has reduced justice to a mere technical factor.

The problem with the theory of universal integration is in how nations are to be categorized. We agree that each country should act according to its rank. But the question is: what is the yardstick for doing the ranking?

We believe that the Westerners are deceitful and that their calculations of where each country ranks are not based merely on military strength and industrial potential, because if that was so, why are they so malevolent toward us? They say: You are the source of fundamentalism. But we have neither long-range nuclear missiles nor high per capita industrial production. So why are they so worried? Rabin said that Iran is the biggest problem facing Middle East peace. Why is it that we receive one rating in one case and another in another case?

The point is that countries are ranked according to their political power, and political power is not based on military and economic might alone. [passage omitted]

[KEYHAN] You have defined the issue very well, but we want to know how hegemonism in the various fields should be confronted. For example, when it comes to development—which is the problem that we face now and have decided to achieve—the prevailing patterns in the world are based on the theories that you have mentioned. How do you assess the link between these two factors—that is, "development" and "hegemonism"?

[Larijani] Development is one of the issues very close to the problem of arrogance and hegemony. First of all, we should determine what we mean by development. I believe that the First [Five-Year] Plan and the Second Plan—as I have judged from the draft Second Plan—have two fundamental problems. The first is that national priorities are not defined. In other words, we have a plan without a national strategy. In order to determine our national strategy we should study the country's potentials. Naturally we cannot do everything with these potentials, nor can we alter our plans each year. Since we have limited resources, we should concentrate them on a calculated course of action. In the First

Plan, we have a collection of good things. We want our roads to be improved; we want our people's living conditions to improve; we want to improve housing and education; we want to develop our industries, and so on. But we have not set any priorities. We need a national development strategy.

The second problem with the plan is the absence of a theory for development. Our development efforts should definitely be linked to a theory. I believe that this problem should be approached more seriously.

As far as national strategy is concerned, I would like to explain that safeguarding the system comes above everything else. It is all right if we do not have highways as long as our system is preserved. If we have to lose our country in order to have highways, then we do not want that type of development. Therefore, we should find out where our system is vulnerable. One danger is the threat to our defense structure, so we should have an effective defense; and, if necessary, we must cut back on our bread in order to get more swords. The second problem is that of self-sufficiency. One of the problems of the First Plan is that it has not been compiled for an "antagonistic milieu." In other words, let us assume that we have to live in an antagonistic atmosphere. Our assumption is that everyone is our friend, that we will be friends with the whole world, that no one will bother us; therefore, we have planned for a non-antagonistic milieu. But our milieu should be antagonistic. The meaning of antagonism is not that all of us should be at war, that we cannot trust anything. Therefore, in vital fields we should be self-sufficient. This means that we should be self-sufficient in basic commodities. In other words, even at the cost of falling behind in our industries, we should achieve self-sufficiency in our production of wheat, rice, meat, and other basic commodities. This means that we should be self-sufficient even if our population growth rate increases. This means that we should develop the industries related to these fields and invest in these industries.

The third problem is over selected industries. We have invested a great deal on various industries by paying dollar rates ranging from 70 to 600 rials. But we cannot decide in which direction our country's industries can progress. We are backward in many of the industries. We are unable—and it is unnecessary—for us to succeed in all industrial areas. No country in the world has achieved as much success in all industrial fields as we have, but we should have a selective industry based on our capabilities and resources so that after some time we will be recognized in the world because of our progress in those specific industries. It is a major problem that our plan does not specify industries. Of course, I believe that the oil industry should be our selected industry. Today we have more than 10,000 oil experts and 80 years of experience in the field of petroleum. We have vast energy resources, and the world will not cease to need oil in the future. This means that we should not sell crude oil but oil derivatives. We should have large companies in oil-related industries—from off-shore and land exploration, to petrochemistry and so on, so that if there is a global decision on oil exploration we can have, say, two companies that can compete with the rest of the companies in the world. The same should apply to the petrochemical production too. If we have selected industries, our universities should concentrate on them and the budget, too, should be concentrated on them. In general all the various sectors related to oil should be given priority, and the government should also encourage all those who are active in petroleum.

[KEYHAN] From your point of view, this will lead to self-sufficiency as a way to confront hegemonism. But from another angle, single-product economies have always had an element of vulnerability. What about that?

[Larijani] When I listed the priorities of a national strategy I put effective defense at the top. As the second priority, I listed self-sufficiency and then concentration on a selected industry. This does not mean that the rest of the industries should be destroyed. Many of these industries will develop naturally. But we, as a government, should know where to focus our resources. Incidentally, I believe that we are not dependent on our oil industry now; we are dependent on oil itself. I oppose considering oil as our national wealth. Our national wealth lies in processing oil; and if we do that, then dozens of branches of industries will start to grow throughout the country and will help us to succeed. Otherwise, we will not progress in any field and will only be scratching the surface of one field to move on to another. We have to have a selected industry. Moreover, it is our concentration on an effective defense and self-sufficiency in basic commodities that will help many of our industries to progress. Self-sufficiency in basic commodities is an important political principle. We should achieve this, even if at a great cost, because if we do not have economic foundations in the area of "minor" issues, we will not have any foundation on "major" issues. Without a selected industry we cannot go from a low level of development to a higher level of development and all our investments will be wasted.

[KEYHAN] The second problem that you listed in the development plan was the absence of a theory of development. Can you elaborate more on this?

[Larijani] What I just said constitutes one of the bases of a theory of development. In other words, if we want to have development we should first have a national strategy. Second, we should determine where we consider our national wealth to lie. I believe that our national wealth is the brains of our people. We should switch so our national wealth comes from the abilities of our people rather than from raw materials. More than 90 percent of our industries are in the hands of the public sector now. What we are now doing is entrusting large projects to the government sector and giving whatever remains to the cooperative or private sectors. But we believe that large projects should be put in the hands of able, zealous, and competent people. We should not allocate a major part of the credits that the government has at its disposal to large government projects, part of it

to the cooperative sector, and a very small part to the private sector. That is the wrong idea. We saw how privatization did not progress under the First Plan. Privatization is not the same as a brokerage. Privatization means that able people committed to our system and the revolution will be granted an opportunity to work and to strive for the various national affairs, and instead of being a civil servant they will have dozens of their own employees. But they should work. It is not correct to believe that the private sector is always corrupt. Corruption exists in the public, private, and cooperative sectors. Actually whenever a large project is involved, the extent of corruption is greater. As for selected industries, I should say that without determining a selected industry, we definitely are wasting our financial resources and potential.

Another issue is belief in a dynamic market. Of course there is a difference between believing in a free market economy and in a dynamic market. Belief in a dynamic market means that we should adopt a method that will help us to have an impact on economic issues. We should not announce that the price of a commodity is so many rials one day and then not be able to offer the product at that price. Even the reprimands and censuring that we do are not correct. The reason for the failure is that we have not correctly understood the meaning of dynamic economics. We should accept the fact that the largest obstacle to waste is for each and every economic action and step to be logical and justified. [passage omitted]

Of course, approving a national strategy is not the duty of just the Majles. The esteemed leader should also state his views on the general points of this idea, after which we should compile a theory of development on this basis. I believe that the current situation cannot continue and that if we do not rise to reform it, we will regret it. We should seize the opportunities of this period when Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani is like a powerful executive engine in the country and can implement immense projects. With the political power and courage that he has, he can lay the foundation stone for change. Many of the world's statesmen are not as courageous as he is. We should use this golden era as well as possible and lay a good foundation for development.

[KEYHAN] Can we not say that, while no pattern for the country's development has been put forth, nevertheless the current policies follow a specific pattern which the Westerners or institutions such as the World Bank advocate for development in the Third World?

[Larijani] Of course, we can find cases that may not necessarily justify the World Bank, but which may include some of their ideas. Basically speaking, the theory of development cannot be general. We should have a development theory that accords with our conditions. I do not believe that a theory that is implemented in Argentina or Brazil, or—basically speaking—the theories that are exported for all the countries irrespective of their identities, and theories of countries as stateless [preceding word in English] can be applicable everywhere. [passage omitted]

What I would like to say is that what we are doing now within the framework of development does not have a palpable theory behind it. [passage omitted]

[KEYHAN] In your remarks, you referred to a club of developed countries. In our foreign policy, in order to confront hegemony, to what extent can we be content with or rely on the internal differences in this club?

[Larijani] This question comes back to the theory of how successful the universal world rule that the Americans advocate will be. I think that this theory faces many significant problems. Of course, the members of the club of developed countries agree that they should rule the world, but they do not agree that they should be headed by America.

Inside the club too, there are debates on classifications. For example, can a country like Germany be as trusted as France or Britain? For example, can Japan underwrite more of the United Nations budget or should it be like the rest? Should gross industrial production be used as a criterion for development or should technology, and so on? Therefore, we see that this plan for the West to rule the world cannot be implemented as easily as they think, even if America is its head. There are many countries in the world that do not accept the guardianship of America and the West, like the Chinese, the Indians, us, and many other countries.

The interpretation of the idea of modern hegemony is that those countries that do not accept it will be annihilated and that ultimately the Chinese, the Indians, the Iranians, and so on will surrender. But I believe that this is not so. [passage omitted]

We should invest in the issue of "Islamic awakening" as a serious issue. Probably many of our intellectuals do not take this issue seriously. We should take this matter seriously, at least as much as the Jews do. One of the reasons for Israel's current flexibility and readiness to give back the Golan Heights to Syria, to leave Lebanon, to accept 'Arafat, and to agree with Jordan on the river, land, and so on is because of the Islamic awakening. Of course, I do not mean that their flexibility is sufficient or that it legitimizes their illegitimate acts. But Israel and the United States are moving with such haste to deal with Israel's problem because they have reached the conclusion that the Islamic movements have the necessary base in all countries and that if America, Israel, and the compromisers do not reach agreement today, 10 years from now they will definitely be in a weaker position. Our intellectuals should at least attach the same significance as the Jews do to the Islamic movement because this Islamic awakening is another aspect of the failure of the theory of modern hegemonism. Even though America propagates this theory and uses it as their basis, nevertheless this does not mean that it will succeed. There are ample grounds for a country such as

ours, as an independent country, to promote our policy in the world. All calculations show that we can remain an independent country, propagate what we have to say, and defend ourselves. Of course, there are certain costs of an independent life. But no matter how complicated processes become, we should try not to abandon our simple way of life. We should have a theory and a basis for our actions; and if we work wisely, we will definitely reach our goals.

[KEYHAN] Being rational or touchy are issues that are sometimes interpreted differently. For some time now, the issue of relations with America has been discussed here and there as a rational necessity. Recently a letter was published regarding this. What is your view on this?

[Larijani] Of course, I am not familiar with the letter, and I do not know if it was written by the brother to whom it is attributed, because the letter was unsigned. In a conversation that I had with him, he said that he had not written the letter and that this was only a draft. Therefore, the issue of the letter is not important. The issue itself is the problem. Naturally, our system works for its own interests. In other words, the esteemed leader and the other officials within the system are giving their best to preserve the interests of the revolution and of the system. If they clearly and decisivly negate something like relations with America—which they have—no one has any suspicions that we are working to establish relations with America. Naturally, a policy like this is definitely based on the system's interests. The esteemed leader is the first to defend the interests of the system. I think that the main issue here is that such relations are definitely more detrimental than beneficial for us. The main argument of the esteemed leader is: What benefits can relations with America have when its policy is geared at overthrowing our system? America has always exercised its hostility against us, even in places where there are no signs of that country. Let us assume that we are sitting at a table and want to talk with America. How will we benefit from this? Talks with America will be to our benefit when America changes its policy toward us, when it no longer has a policy of imposing its diktat on us and making us sit at a negotiating table like the rest of the regional countries. We are not like these countries. I believe that the basis of the national policy that the esteemed leader has delineated today is one of benefiting our system the most. The main point is the policies of America. If America's policies are changed, there will be no difference between America and other countries. Therefore, the esteemed leader—as the strongest defender of the system's interests—recommends the policy that we should follow. His view has a very strong basis. The first point is that we should stop thinking that our development and progress is contingent only on relations with America. It is a historic mistake to think that way. Logic dictates that we progress without America. America cannot prevent us from gaining advanced technology. The problem lies in the absence of our own ability to acquire technology. If we increase our ability, then we will be able to acquire advanced technology from anywhere we want.

The other point is that there are problems with our financial policies too, otherwise we would be able to manage with less money. Our income is about $20 billion a year. If a country like Japan wants a $20-billion net income each year, its exports must amount to $120 billion. We should be able to improve our financial situation. Thinking of borrowing in one field and then not being able to repay it and asking the World Bank for a loan for us to repay our debt means that we should become friends with America to get a loan from the World Bank; and this is an erroneous theory.

Officers Detained for Criticism Released

PM2610124493 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 24 Oct 93 pp1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Release of Eight of the 22 Officers Arrested for Criticizing Hashemi-Rafsanjani"]

[Excerpts] Tehran, London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Informed sources in Tehran said yesterday that eight of the 22 retired Army and Air Force officers arrested by the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps earlier this month have been released.

The arrests were made after the publication of the text of an open letter to Iranian Leader 'Ali Khamene'i by retired Brigadier General Nosratollah Tavakkoli who was chief of the general staff under Khomeyni. [passage omitted]

Members of Tavakkoli's family said yesterday that the retired brigadier general, who participated in the war against Iraq, is now in a Revolutionary Guard base northeast of Tehran. They said that Tavakkoli respected the constitution and never suggested a change of regime but "only expressed the view that the current president and his ministers lack the qualifications and credibility necessary for solving the country's problems."

They said that he and the other detained officers would be released soon.

Training in Progress for Vice, Virtue Leaders

LD2710103293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0740 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Excerpts] Here's a piece of news concerning the basij [mobilization] resistant force.

The judiciary's bailiffs and civil service's basij members throughout the country have started being trained on how to implement the precept on enjoining virtue and prohibiting vice.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Malek-Mohammadi, representative of the leader in the civil service basij, said: Preliminary and final training courses of the commanders of civil service basij bases and headquarters are being carried out within the framework of the project: "Ashura's Messengers." [passage omitted]

It is worth noting that the civil service basij has 25 headquarters, 250 bases, and approximately 14,000 members.

Cherom Dam Inaugurated in Fars Province

LD2310184293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Excerpts] The Cherom Dam in Fars Province was inaugurated this evening in the presence of First Vice President Habibi and Energy Minister Zanganeh. The Cherom Dam was built at a cost of 7 billion rials in the Konar-Tapeh region of Kazerun. Our colleague reports from Shiraz:

[Unidentified correspondent] [passage omitted] With the use of the Cherom Dam and 8,140 meters of water canals and a 500-meter long water tunnel, the farming area being watered by the Shapur River of Kazerun will increase from 2,300 hectares to 5,600 hectares. [passage omitted]

Pakistan

Cabinet Places Security Forces on 'High Alert'

BK2610113393 Karachi DAWN in English 26 Oct 93 p 1

[Report by Ihtashamul Haque]

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 25: The Federal Cabinet at its first meeting chaired by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has expressed grave concern over the deteriorating situation in occupied Kashmir and decided to "put on high alert all the country's security forces to meet any eventuality".

Official sources told DAWN that the Cabinet meeting had discussed in detail the atrocities being committed by occupation forces in Kashmir on the innocent Kashmiris and vowed to provide all moral and political support to the freedom fighters.

The sources said the Prime Minister was of the view that her Government could not care less on what she termed planned genocide of the Kashmiris, particularly in Derah [Shrine] Harzatbal. [sentence as received]

The meeting feared that since the Indian forces had been unable to control the indigenous freedom movement in occupied Kashmir, they could open offence against Pakistan for which the security forces must be on their high alert.

The sources said the decision had also been taken by the Federal Cabinet that the high officials of the Foreign Office should brief the joint session of Parliament on Oct 27 on the latest situation of Kashmir. The sources said the Cabinet had been informed that the Indian authorities had become desperate after having failed to curb the Kashmir freedom fighers and could go to any extent against Pakistan in retaliation.

The Prime Minister told her colleagues that her Government would not succumb to any pressure and would continue raising the Kashmir issue and condemning the excesses on the people of the occupied Valley.

Ms Bhutto, the sources said, had also taken into confidence the Cabinet ministers about her visits to Cyprus, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, apprising specially the King Fahd and President Shaykh Zayid Bin- Sultan Al Nuhayyan on the latest situation in Kashmir and asking them to use their influence to end the siege of Harzatbal Shrine.

The sources said both the leaders had assured the Prime Minister that they would take up this issue with the Indian authorities and that they would not allow the continued massacre of the Muslims of occupied Kashmir.

"The Prime Minister has adequately briefed both King Fahd and Shaykh Zayid on Kashmir and we have received for the first time their full support on this issue, said a ministerial source. [no closing quotation mark as received]

The sources said Ms Bhutto had also told her Cabinet ministers that Saudi Arabia and the UAE were willing to support Pakistan on all issues. They had also extended their all possible financial support to pull the country out of the present economic mess.

Ms. Bhutto was informed by the two Muslim leaders that they believed in strengthening relations with Pakistan.

The sources said Ms Bhutto had termed her meetings with King Fahd and Shaykh Zayid extremely fruitful which she believed, would go a long way in further establishing very good relations with the two countries.

Likewise, the Prime Minister told the Cabinet that her meetings with British Prime Minister John Major and other world leaders were very encouraging.

The sources said Ms Bhutto had informed the Cabinet that her prime concern on the international front was to end Pakistan's isolation and she claimed that from that point of view her meetings had been very successful.

She also discussed with the British Prime Minister bilateral issues but took up the Kashmir issue on priority, with John Major assuring her that he would play his due role in resolving the Kashmir issue.

Report Details Indian Military Movements

BK2510111593 Islamabad THE NATION in English 25 Oct 93 p 5

[KASHMIR MEDIA SERVICE report: "Reckless Step by India Cannot Be Ruled Out"]

[Text] Muzaffarabad (KMS) - With the death toll in Kashmir reaching 70 as the siege of Hazaratbal enters

the second week, India is coming under severe international pressure and condemnation for the genocide being committed by her army against the innocent Kashmiris.

In order to relieve this pressure, India is using the usual ploy of externalising the problem by employing the "Pakistani bogy".

However, in this case, considering the gravity of the situation in Kashmir, which is now beyond her control, India has not merely considered her action to words but has also decided to use actual military pressure to desist Pakistan from lending diplomatic or moral support to Kashmiris.

During the last 24 hours, the Indian army and air force have taken a number of steps to send clear signals to Pakistan in this regard. Some of these steps are:

Leave has been restricted all the armed forces personnel throughout India.

However, in formations deployed along the borders and in Kashmir, leave has been totally stopped.

An unspecified number of troops and reinforcements from other areas of Kashmir are being immediately moved to Srinagar.

The Indian Air Force has been placed on a high alert. Two fresh fighter squadrons from the rear bases have been moved forward to Pathnkot.

Two MI-8 Helicopters have been shifted from Jammu to Srinagar, possibly for use during military action against the freedom fighters in the shrine.

Patrolling all along the Line of Control has been intensified.

The entire communication messages and signal traffic between the units of the Indian army is now being done using codes and crypto; measure only taken during war time.

Unconfirmed reports indicate movement of launches of Prithvi missile in Punjab.

It is unlikely that with the present internal disorder in Kashmir, Punjab and the North-Eastern states, India could consider going to war with Pakistan.

However, it does indicate India's growing frustration and desperation with the situation caused as a result of the two weeks old siege of the Hazratbal shrine.

With growing differences between the government and army on ways of tackling the situation any precipitate or reckless step by India cannot be totally ruled out.

Mohammad Afzal Khan Named Kashmir Affairs Minister

BK2710023293 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] The portfolio of Federal Minister Mohammad Afzal Khan has been changed. He will now be in charge of the Ministry of Kashmir Affairs instead of the Ministry of States and Frontier Regions.

Demonstrations Protest Indian Siege of Kashmir Shrine

BK2610143093 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] There have been more demonstrations and rallies to condemn the siege of Dargah [shrine] Hazratbal by Indian troops in various cities and towns. Protest processions were taken out in the twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad. The protesters carried banners and placards condemning the siege of Dargah Hazratbal by Indian troops and the arrest of Kashmiri leader Mr. Amanullah Khan. Speakers, including the amir of Jamaat-i-Islami, Senator Qazi Hussain Ahmed, condemned the siege of Dargah Hazratbal and urged the world community to play its role in resolving the Kashmir issue in accordance with UN resolutions. Later, a memorandum was handed over at the office of the Indian High Commission.

The Azad Jammu and Kashmir [AJK] Council has demanded immediate lifting of the siege of Dargah Hazratbal and cessation of Indian brutalities in occupied Kashmir. The AJK Council made the demand in a resolution adopted at its emergency session in Islamabad today. Chaudhry Tariq Farooq, adviser to the prime minister of Pakistan, presided over the meeting. The AJK Council also called for an early solution of the Kashmir issue in accordance with the UN resolutions. The AJK Council expressed its confidence in the leadership of Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto and thanked her for taking up the Kashmir issue at the just-concluded Commonwealth summit in Cyprus. Later, members of the AJK Council went to the High Commission of India and presented a copy of a memorandum. The memorandum urged the world community to pressurize India to stop human rights violations in occupied Kashmir, which pose a great threat to peace and security in the region. A copy of the memorandum was also presented to the United Nations Military Advisory Group in Rawalpindi.

Nawaz Sharif Urges India Boycott

BK2710025293 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, leader of the opposition in the National Assembly and president of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Group, has called upon the world fraternity, especially member countries of the Islamic Conference Organization, to pay attention to the

persistent violation of human rights by Indian forces in the occupied Kashmir. In a statement in Islamabad, he called for economic sanctions against India for carrying out atrocities on innocent Kashmiris.

Acting President Addresses Joint Parliament Session

BK2710102593 Islamabad PTV Television Network in Urdu 0507 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Address by Acting President Wasim Sajjad to a joint session of Parliament at Parliament House in Islamabad—live]

[Text] Respected members of Parliament: Peace be upon you. There could be no greater happiness for me than having the opportunity to address this joint session of the Parliament of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan following the National Assembly elections. It is a representative house of the people; it is they who possess sovereignty in its real sense. This house symbolizes the nation's confidence in democracy; people pin their hopes and aspirations on this house. Having the opportunity to address this house is an honor that makes anything else I could be proud of seem small.

Before I proceed further, I consider it my most pleasant duty to extend sincere greetings to the National Assembly members who were elected to this house in the recent elections. Each of you can justifiably be proud of the fact that you entered this august house with the people's mandate, secured through the democratic process of the elections—elections that the whole nation and outside world declared to be clear, clean, free, and transparent. I sincerely thank God that I succeeded in carrying out the great responsibility of organizing the elections, entrusted to me and the caretaker government. In addition to the elections, we have also been able to carry out a smooth transfer of power, as we promised.

New national and provincial assemblies have been formed as a result of the elections. Elected governments have assumed office at the federal and provincial levels. I extend my congratulations to the federal and provincial elected governments. I extend my sincerest greetings especially to Ms. Benazir Bhutto on her assumption of the responsibilities of prime minister at this crucial juncture in Pakistan's history. [applause]

The federal and provincial governments enjoy the clear mandate of the people. The people's mandate is the biggest force and the real source of power in a democracy. This mandate, which is a great honor, carries gigantic responsibilities as well. These include the responsibility for maintaining and promoting healthy democratic traditions, the responsibility for fulfilling the people's aspirations, and the responsibility for establishing the glorious traditions of service-oriented politics, honesty, and high morality. I believe that you are all aware of these heavy responsibilities and are determined to carry them out. I am also confident that you will pay attention to the numerous problems that the people of Pakistan expect you to deal with. I feel that if you look from the perspective of Pakistan's exclusive political history, you will find the most important responsibility is to ensure the supremacy of the Constitution and the rule of law. [applause]

Doubts and apprehensions about the future of democracy in our country cannot be dispelled until we make adherence to the Constitution a cardinal part of our political faith. Similarly, people's faith in the democratic system and its virtues will remain shaken until we establish the rule of law on every issue and apply it to everyone equally. As far as dispelling apprehensions about the future of democracy and strengthening the nation's faith in the democratic system is concerned, this august house has been entrusted with far greater responsibilities than previous houses.

Every member of this house should prove through his actions that this house—which enjoys central status in our democratic system—protects and implements the recognized principles of supremacy of the Constitution and rule of law. Through your work, you should enhance the dignity, honor, and credibility of this house to the extent that, in the future, no one will have the pretext or the courage to play with its destiny.

In the past, the nation has witnessed a number of unfortunate incidents in which the sanctity of the country's elected bodies was trampled upon. The nation now hopes that the elected bodies will strengthen themselves and will ensure that their sanctity is far from the reach of any hand, and they will be able to complete their constitutional terms. If a need is felt for some constitutional amendments to achieve this objective, I hope, then, in the greater interest of democracy, the government and the opposition with consensus and cooperation will take the necessary steps in this regard. Similarly, the restoration of reserved seats for women in the National Assembly and the provincial assemblies is an issue which also deserves consensus. I am confident this issue will also be amicably solved through mutual understanding.

Respected members of Parliament, the nation also expects that Pakistan's administrative system, which is a federal system, will be run in accordance with the spirit and requirements of federalism. The federal system demands that the central government and the provinces play their respective roles within their constitutional jurisdiction. One should not interfere unnecessarily in the jurisdiction of the other or deny its constitutional rights. The provinces should realize that the central government is like a roof, under which everyone is safe. The central government should realize that the provinces are the pillars on which that roof stands, and that their strength and stability are the same as its own.

The establishment of multiparty governments at the central and provincial levels bears testimony to the power of the democratic system. If that power is utilized in a healthy manner, there is no reason why the federal

system should not become a source of stability. Struggles and animosity between the provinces and the federal government emerge when governments ignore democratic norms, the aspirations of the people, and constitutional limits; forget the national interests; or give preference based on personal, regional, racial, or linguistic differences. I am confident that the people have not given this right to any party, individual, or government. The nation, therefore, believes that the confrontation and tension which prevailed in the past will not emerge, and that the tradition of political tolerance will be strengthened.

On the basis of the positive signals being received from the federal and provincial levels, and the excellent and encouraging things being heard, I hope that the political acumen on both sides has become strong enough that both will cooperate with each other fully to run the federal system in a pleasant manner. I hope they will adopt a policy of understanding and cooperation, and that the nation will witness the beginning of a new positive and healthy chapter in their bilateral relations.

I would also like to stress the need to add a new chapter to the government-opposition relationship. There is no denying the fact that the nation is tired of the politics of confrontation. Confrontation breeds political instability, and in an atmosphere of political confrontation, the people's problems and development work are pushed to the back burner. This, consequently, creates stalemate in the nation and inertia in the development process, which in turn shatters the nation's confidence in the political process and democratic institutions.

Our country already lags far behind in the race for development. We still have a long way to go to eliminate poverty, ignorance, disease, and other manifestations of backwardness. We can cover this distance successfully only if we move forward hand in hand, without wasting time on meaningless rivalries, and devote our energies to national construction and progress. What has Almighty God given us? He has given us a country with natural resources and hard-working people; a nation endowed with the capabilities and courage to fight against heavy odds. If we create a sense of self-restraint, tolerance, and forbearance in ourselves, and enter the arena united, there is no obstacle to progress and excellence that we cannot overcome.

I am very gratified to note that in the National Assembly session the other day, both the leader of the house and the leader of the opposition offered to cooperate with each other and expressed very positive sentiments. This is a very heartening development. The nation must have heaved a sigh of relief at this. The people must be hopeful that the mandate given to the ruling party will be respected and the government will be allowed to work uninterrupted, while the opposition will be given legitimate status and an opportunity to play its role according to democratic traditions. The nation hopes that criticism will not be offered for the sake of criticism, and that constructive criticism will not be viewed as undue interference. The nation hopes that despite differences of opinion, everyone will strive in unison to solve the people's problems and find solutions to the problems facing the country.

In my humble opinion, these hopes cannot be regarded as wishing on a star. After all, these are the very things that happen in developed democracies. It is also true that every party that contested the elections promised to solve people's difficulties, solve national problems, and work for the reconstruction and development of the country. Now is the time to fulfill those promises, but nobody can do it alone. What is needed is cooperation and interaction, and a spirit of moving forward in complete harmony. I am confident that both sides in Parliament will display generosity and warmth in this respect. In this manner, they will not only serve the country but also establish a healthy democratic tradition and enhance the effectiveness and credibility of the Parliament. This will have a positive impact on our society.

You must be aware that Parliament is not confined to the four walls of this building. The environment you create here will be felt throughout the country. If the atmosphere here remains free of mutual resentment, it will help promote integrity and unity in the country as well. It is your duty to promote national unity and integration. It is certainly a great responsibility. I am confident that you will prove your worth by carrying out this responsibility.

Respected members, I would like to draw your attention to some salient points the prime minister made in her address to the nation, when she said that her government would be a reform government. I think the most urgent and important task facing the government is to initiate a comprehensive reform program at the national level. The people are tired of the meaningless tension of the past. The termite of corruption is eating away the very fabric of our society. The people regard the practice of horse trading and similar undemocratic activities with contempt, and their trust in the government and democratic institutions is diminishing. Given this situation, the government's announcement that it will give full attention to the process of reform augurs well and is very encouraging. [applause]

The people expect reforms, and I am confident that the government's reform program will be successful with the cooperation of the people.

The government's pledge to implement a reform program is an integral part of its manifesto. The manifesto was probably formulated after considerable deliberation and an objective assessment of the country's problems. You are aware that a manifesto is not a verbal announcement, but a pledge made to the people. One condition for the success of a democratic system is that the government should never forget the pledges it has made to the people, especially the electorate. The salient features of

this manifesto are: restoring law and order; carrying out economic reform; formulating an effective and dynamic foreign policy; taking government to the people's doorsteps; developing a nationwide social action program based on new formulations; checking rapid population growth; paying special attention to agricultural development; satisfying people who were affected by the Taj Company and the cooperative societies; ensuring a better position for women in society; establishing special courts for women; and other basic and important steps. Implementing these steps will enable the people to participate in the economic and political process. It will ensure the reconstruction of our beloved country and the revival of economic, religious, ethical, and social values. Most importantly, it will help to give power to the people, who really deserve it. Simultaneously, it will also help bring the fruits of development to the poor people.

We have talked a lot about our love and service of the poor. But the fact is that poor people in Pakistan are still deprived of the basic facilities of life. It is time to initiate programs that directly benefit the poor and enable them to live with dignity. The government has firmly pledged that it will not rest until it improves the people's standard of living.

Foremost among the government's priorities is establishing law and order in the country. A peaceful situation is very important for the growth of democracy and democratic institutions. The government has pledged to uproot the forces and elements opposed to the people and the country. The government will review all factors that affect law and order and take stern action to remove injustices and eradicate the causes of bloodshed.

There is no place for prejudice in a democratic society. A democratic society is a society of justice, fair play, mutual cooperation, and understanding. Therefore, the government will take the necessary steps to create unity and integrity in society and promote civilized ways of expressing differences of opinion. The government intends to take effective steps to suppress bandits, thieves, and antisocial elements as well as those providing them sanctuary. It will make the institutions entrusted with this important responsibility more effective and capable, and rid them of black sheep so as to restore the people's confidence in the institutions responsible for maintaining law and order.

Distinguished members of Parliament, as you know, our economic condition requires immediate attention. A number of problems are connected with the economy. The government is faced with the prolonged ills of maladministration and corruption. It has to protect our national resources, which are our national trust. Day by day, our economy is becoming weaker and weaker, while our neighboring countries have launched comprehensive economic welfare programs and have started to improve their condition. Therefore, the new government is formulating a comprehensive economic policy that will guarantee economic freedom and a stable economic framework.

The government will adopt a policy to relax trade restrictions. The role of the private sector will be further expanded. Inflation will be brought down by cutting expenses. Unemployment will be eradicated. Interest rates will be reduced and the foundations for lasting economic development will be laid. Austerity measures will he adopted for government expenditures. Tax reform will be introduced in such a way that taxpayers will not object and more tax funds will be collected. The water, electricity, and energy sectors will be given a boost in order to expedite industrial development on a faster and more reasonable basis.

Agriculture is the backbone of our economy. The government will pay special attention to the agricultural sector. It will adopt an agricultural policy that will result in at least a 7 percent increase per annum, so that within the next five years, the country will be self-sufficient in food.

Honorable members, the core of the government's special attention will go to its social system. This system has been unfair for a long time. The literacy rate is inadequate in the countryside, and in several places it is difficult even to get water. There is inequality everywhere. The health sector itself appears to be sick, the rights of women are trampled upon, and minorities do not consider themselves part of the national mainstream. It is clear that all of these evils cannot be eradicated in a day. The government has, however, presented a concept for a new social contract that calls for the redistribution of rights among the central government, the provinces, and local bodies. The citizens should get justice at their doorsteps. The maximum needs of the people should be fulfilled. In this way the dream of a prosperous, literate, healthy, and developed Islamic state—which was seen by Allama Iqbal and advocated by Mohammad Ali Jinnah—will be fulfilled.

Honorable members, in the sphere of foreign policy too, the country is faced with numerous problems and an attempt is being made to isolate us. Europe, the United States of America, and Japan are unjustifiably concerned about our peaceful nuclear program. India's provocations and brutalities on the unarmed people in Kashmir are ever increasing. The government is not unaware of it. Immediately after assuming office, the prime minister attended the Commonwealth heads of government conference, thereby launching an effective and dynamic foreign policy. [applause]

In Limassol, the prime minister presented her views on Kashmir in detail to 50 Commonwealth member delegations. In addition, she met the custodian of the Islamic holy shrines as well as the ruler of the United Arab Emirates, and made Pakistan's viewpoint clear. This beginning is definitely a good omen for the country.

The world situation demands that we take a realistic review of the situation and strive to make our relations with the United States cordial so that we are not left aloof from the world community. We should rather join

this community and play our role which conforms to our political and economic situation and geographical position. We hope that the United States will try to understand Pakistan's stand on issues like the nuclear program in a better and more realistic manner. Pakistan's continuous efforts to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons are a matter of international record. Pakistan has time and again extended assurances that the nature of its nuclear energy program is completely peaceful. Pakistan has certainly obtained the capability in the nuclear technology, but it intends to use this capability only for peaceful purposes. As an independent and sovereign country, it is our irrevocable right and we cannot give up this right. [applause]

I would also like to clarify that the government will continue to extend its full support to the brave people of Kashmir, Palestine, and Bosnia until they get total justice. [applause]

So far as Kashmir is concerned, I once again declare that it is the collective national pledge of Pakistanis to ensure that Kashmiris are granted their right to self-determination. [applause]

There are no differences of opinion on this issue. The sentiments and views of the entire nation are identical regarding Kashmir. Pakistan, along with the entire civilized world, is gravely concerned with the brutalities being committed against the oppressed people of Kashmir and the continuing violation of human rights there. The desecration of the Hazratbal shrine and its siege is the worst and most despicable violation of the universally accepted norms of humanity, ethics, religious tolerance, and international law. I strongly appeal to the Indian prime minister immediately to end the siege of the Hazratbal shrine and to stop forthwith the violation of human rights in Kashmir. [applause]

I once again call upon them to show their sense of realism and abandon the policy of indiscriminate use of force and intimidation and resolve the long-standing issue of Kashmir through negotiation by adopting the path of reconciliation and understanding. Genocide is not the solution to any problem, nor can it suppress the spirit of freedom of the Kashmiri people. A solution to the Kashmir problem is the prerequisite for Pakistan-India relations. An honorable solution to this problem could ensure the establishment of an atmosphere of peace, cooperation, and interaction in South Asia. This is indispensable in eradicating poverty, ignorance, disease, and other manifestations of backwardness in this impoverished region.

The new government attaches special importance to Pakistan's relations with Islamic countries and will make every possible effort to expand and deepen these relations.

Pakistan is tied in eternal friendship with the People's Republic of China. We are proud of this friendship and it will be the government's endeavor to further deepen these ties of friendship.

The government will also do its best to revive Pakistan's historic ties with the newly independent states of Central Asia and to promote mutually beneficial and multifaceted relationships with them.

Likewise, the ties of friendship, cooperation, and interaction with the Western countries and Japan will be further strengthened and made more meaningful.

In short, the government desires peace and goodwill—not only in this region, but around the world—and will warmly receive the hand of friendship that is be extended on the basis of equality and mutual respect.

Respected members, the nation's eyes are upon you all. There is a ray of hope and confidence in these eyes. The nation has been dreaming of a better future for a long time, and the people are looking to you for the realization of this dream. I am confident that you will not disappoint them. I am also confident that in meeting the people's expectations, you will unite to build Pakistan's future by utilizing your best abilities with a full sense of responsibility. This future will be adorned with the most beautiful colors of progress and illuminated by the glowing lights of glory and success; this future will also be a reflection of Islam's glorious past and a durable example of the full benefits and potential of the modern era. May God help and guide you! Amen! Long Live Pakistan!

Bhutto Receives Afghan Foreign Minister

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[Text] Afghan Foreign Minister Hedayat Amin Arsala called on Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in Islamabad today and congratulated her on assuming office as prime minister. He also exchanged views with her on the situation in Afghanistan. The prime minister said: We sincerely hope for Afghanistan's peace and well-being. She offered Pakistan's full support and cooperation in the restoration and reconstruction of Afghanistan.

Afghan Elders Seek Dialogue With New Government

BK2510113193 Islamabad THE NATION in English 25 Oct 93 p 5

[Shamim Shahid report: "Afghans Accelerate Efforts To Restore Peace"]

[Text] Peshawar—After the political change ensuing peace in Pakistan, Afghans have accelerated their efforts in order to convince the Pakistani leadership of playing their due role for early restoration of peaceful atmoshpere in Afghanistan for establishing a centralised government in Kabul.

In this connection, a delegation of Afghan elders led by Syed Mohammad Ishaq Gilani called on ANP Rechberi-Tehrik Khan Abdul Wali Khan at his residence at Wali

Bagh, Charsadda, on Saturday. The Afghan leaders discussed in depth the prevailing situation in Afghanistan. They exchanged views on ongoing race for power among the Mujahideen factions.

Syed Mohammad Ishaq Gilani told the NATION that they are planning to hold an early meeting with other leaders including Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, Foreign Minister Farooq Leghari, Interior Minister Nasirollah Khan Babar and Tribal and Border Affairs Minister Mohammad Afzal Khan. He said that along with minister, they sought seek positive role of other politicians of Pakistan. [sentence as published]

Syed Ishaq Gilani further said that Nasirollah Khan Babar and Mohammad Afzal Khan were aware of the Afghan conflict and situation. Likewise, Farooq Leghari, being Foreign Minister, could play an important role at this crucial stage.

He was of the view that in the presence of Nasirollah Khan Babar and Mohammad Afzal Khan, the present Pakistani leadership could easily resolve the Afghan conflict and can help in pulling the country out of present crisis.

Syed Ishaq Gilani said that they are strggling to convince the Pakistani leadership to enable the Afghan leadership for inviting the United Nations to solve the problems in Afghanistan. He said that in this regard, they desire formation of a broad based neutral government which after framing a constitution could make arrangements for general polls or to convene a meeting of the traditional loya jirga.

He said that majority of Afghans is fed up with the uncertain situation and continuous bloodshed in their motherland.

Similarly, Da Afghanistan De Sulehe Mubarazaeen (Lovers of Peace) are also assembling the leading Afghan leaders her on Tuesday in order to adopt a unanimous decision on currents situation of Afghanistan. The meeting will be participanted by people from every sphere of life and they would present their proposals and suggestions for resolving the Afghan conflict.